

Regional Synthetic Sportsgrounds Project



Northbridge Oval 2010

What is it?

A NSROC agreement to provide a suite of synthetic sportsgrounds in strategic locations across the region under a three to four year construction program based on contributions from Councils and multiple stakeholders.

A business model to address the shortage of playing surfaces in growth sports, and free up over-used grass fields.

What will it achieve?

The NSROC region has a shortage of sportsgrounds to meeting current and future demand and Councils face increasing costs in maintenance as a result of over-use of existing fields. There is also competing social and non-sport use of fields due to limited open space in a region with increasing density in housing. There are limited suitable sites held by Councils for new fields, and limited funds to purchase sites held by other agencies.

Synthetic sportsfields offer triple the usage of grass fields. They also provide environmental benefits through reduced water needs. The mix of synthetic and grass fields can release pressures on existing grass fields and allow for higher overall quality for active recreation in the region.

Field sports are played regionally and there is a strong case for tackling facilities shortages through upgrades on a regional basis. Synthetic fields are significant capital items, needing up to \$1.5 million per ground, where they are redeveloped on existing Council or Crown land. To speed the provision and support funding needs, NSROC Councils has created a priority list for new or redeveloped surfaces for each Local Government Area.

How will it be done?

To make this happen the Councils will work together to source funding to speed the provision of new fields in all areas, to make an impact on community well-being and economic efficiency in a short term timeframe.

The project will bundle funds and tender for set of synthetic fields that are strategically distributed to balance overall demand and amenity across the region. Fields can be rolled out more quickly than each Council can achieve on their own. Construction costs based on loan and grant funds will see the fields become self-funding over a ten year timeframe, due to the higher usage possible and resulting fee income to support a maintenance and replacement program

Support is needed from:

- State and Federal governments in grant and program funding.
- Regulatory support for the region to create a consortium for the new funding model.
- Acceptance of new surfaces and multiple uses and financial support from sporting associations.



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