



MEDIA RELEASE

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BIG BOOST FOR WOMEN'S FOOTY AND CRICKET IN ALTONA

After 40 years, Altona football and cricket clubs can finally cater for female players thanks to the Labor Government and Hobsons Bay City Council.

Member for Altona District Jill Hennessy and Hobsons Bay City Council Mayor Cr Angela Altair officially opened the upgraded pavilion at JK Grant Reserve on Tuesday, made possible through a partnership between the Labor Government and the Council.

The reserve is used by the Altona Football Club, the junior club, Auskick, and the Altona Cricket Club. Together they have more than 600 members and several female teams.

The Government provided \$100,000 from the *Community Sports Infrastructure Fund*, which comes on top of the \$1.6 million committed by the Council.

With the old pavilion designed predominantly for males, it was difficult for female teams or umpires to access the facilities they deserved.

The new pavilion features two female changes rooms with a movable wall so they can be turned into four separate rooms, female umpire rooms, accessible facilities, a first aid room, storage rooms and an undercover area for fans.

With the upgrades to its pavilion, JK Grant Reserve now qualifies as a key local venue for junior finals.

Ms Hennessy thanked Hobsons Bay City Council for its commitment and significant contribution to the project, along with AFL Victoria and the clubs who also made contributions.

The Labor Government recently delivered the biggest investment in community and women's sport in Victoria's history.

The Victorian Budget 2018/19 will invest \$241.6 million in community sport across the state, including more than \$100 million to improve facilities and access for women.

This comes on top of a further \$60 million for community sporting grants and \$5 million for *Community Sports Infrastructure Loans*, which will unlock up to \$100 million to upgrade local facilities.

Quotes attributable to Member for Altona District Jill Hennessy

"Labor is changing the game for women's sport – and we're proud to have delivered female change rooms at JK Grant Reserve."

"Women deserve the same opportunities as men, and with record numbers of women and girls signing up to play local sport, we're making sure our facilities are up to scratch right here in Altona."

"The new pavilion will give our clubs the support they need to grow their ranks and help more locals than ever play the sports they love."