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## CHRISTIE PARK SCORES NEW SYNTHETIC SURFACE

The City of Ryde is about to get more all-weather sports fields, with installation about to commence on two fields at Christie Park following a 'turning of the sod' ceremony this week.

Ryde Mayor Clr Bill Pickering and Chair of the Ryde Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio, shared the honours at the ground-breaking event, described by the Mayor as 'a game changer'.

Mayor Pickering said: "The Christie Park project is part of Ryde Council's \$5.5 million commitment to meet the current and future needs of multiple sporting codes with access to high quality facilities.

"Council's investment in all-weather facilities secures year-round consistent playing surfaces and is a real game changer for Ryde and the sporting community. I am delighted that we got the ball over the line."

The \$3.5M Christie Park Fields 1 & 2 Synthetic Turf Field upgrade includes:

- New synthetic turf surface uses a 100% 'cool' cork infill system with shock and heat absorbing resistant properties for player comfort
- New 1.1 metre high chain mesh perimeter fencing to both fields with improved field access points
- 4.3 metre wide path alongside Field No.1 for emergency vehicles
- Seating for 250 spectators.

Chairman of the Ryde Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio said: "Football is the most popular sport in NSW and as demand grows we need to keep one step ahead to future-proof our great community assets.

"I've been involved in local sports all my life and I know how valuable strong clubs with great fields and facilities help build a strong sense of community and their benefit to health and wellbeing."

The two new Christie Park synthetic turf fields will conform to FIFA Quality 1 Star requirements. The recently completed ELS Hall Park facility conforms to FIFA Quality 1 Star requirements, as well as AFL and Cricket Australia community surface requirements.

Future stages of the Christie Park Master Plan include a centralised amenities building, additional synthetic turf fields and an increase in car parking capacity.