

Friday 18 May 2018

## **MORE ALL-WEATHER SPORTS FIELDS TO BE INSTALLED IN RYDE**

Two more all-weather sports fields are coming to the City of Ryde after Council resolved to install new synthetic fields at Westminster Park and Meadowbank Park.

Gladesville's Westminster Park is a popular sports field for local schools and sporting organisations, while Meadowbank Park is one of the City of Ryde's major sporting and recreation areas, with more than 10 playing fields currently in use.

The two new synthetic fields will complement the three synthetic fields already in use in the City of Ryde, with one at ELS Hall Park and two recently opened at Christie Park.

The three completed synthetic fields have been well received by local sporting clubs and the community as they have been able to continue to access the fields during wet weather when other fields have had to abandon fixtures.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the introduction of the two additional synthetic fields would help meet the increasing demand for outdoor sports within the community.

"Last year, the City of Ryde had no synthetic fields. In 2023 we will have five. Synthetic fields mean more access for traditional and emerging sports, less wet weather cancellations and a better playing experience for all sporting clubs and athletes," Cllr Laxale said.

"The strategic spread of synthetic fields that the City of Ryde is currently rolling out not only encourages more people to get outdoors, but also eases the burden on all grass fields in our community."

Council also resolved that – following consultation with the sporting community – it will amend its Sportsground Allocation Policy so that the use of the new synthetic fields would be accessible for the entire sporting community.

The construction of the synthetic fields will be a part of Council's Four Year Delivery Plan in 2020/21 for Westminster Park and 2022/23 for Meadowbank Park.

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