

Friday 20 May 2016

## **CITY OF RYDE KICKS GOAL WITH THREE ALL-WEATHER SPORTS FIELDS**

City of Ryde will get three all-weather synthetic sports fields to keep pace with the growing demand on sports facilities and the need to provide all-weather playing and training surfaces for multiple sports codes.

The \$5.5 million upgrade to ELS Hall Park Field No 1 at North Ryde, and Fields 1 and 2 at Christie Park, Macquarie Park, follows a successful tender by Turf One Pty Ltd for the design, supply and installation of all-weather synthetic playing surfaces and a commitment from various sporting groups to contribute additional funds to ensure the project's viability.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said it was an investment in the future of sport in the area and a great outcome for Ryde and the sporting community. "I'm delighted that we finally got the ball over the line.

"When I became Mayor, I was determined to ensure that we locked in these fields before Mike Baird forcibly amalgamated our Council and placed us in the hands of an un-elected administrator. Last Tuesday night we did that.

"The upgrade deals with the short term demand for fields, particularly for winter sport, through a combination of new all-weather surfaces, additional lighting and redesign, to address the current over-use of grassed playing fields. This will ensure safe conditions for players and create a sustainable and long lasting community facility."

Council has undertaken extensive analysis of the sites and consulted with sporting codes, residents and synthetic field experts to maximise the use of the sports fields.

"The demand on sporting fields and facilities in the City of Ryde is severely testing the current capacity of Council's grassed sports facilities, but we are planning for the future, with this sustainable solution.

"Despite what I would describe as un-necessary delays in the past, it was pleasing that this plan was supported by all Councillors. Eventually, everyone worked together to get this over the line."

Work will commence in September 2016.

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**PHOTO: Monday 23 May, 4.00pm, Christie Park, Christie Road, Macquarie Park.**

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