

**ATTACHMENT: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER
INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE
HEARINGS**

Hon John Eren MP

SPORT PORTFOLIO

- 1. Will the planned upgrades to community sport fields and facilities ultimately reduce the community's access to them in place of professional, semi-professional training and actual events? What mechanisms has the government put in place to guarantee that this will not happen?**

(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, pages 9-10 of the Sport portfolio transcript)

The Victorian Government's investment into sport and recreation through the 2018-19 Budget is the largest ever commitment in this state to sport and recreation. The commitments include a \$60 million investment into the Community Sport Infrastructure Fund, \$15 million for the Female Friendly Facilities Fund and a new \$100 million Community Sports Loan Scheme. Each of these programs help support community level clubs with much needed new and upgraded infrastructure that caters for a broader range of participants, including those previously underserved.

The government recognises that these investments into community sport are critical to ensuring more people can utilise these facilities by providing an inviting environment that caters for all, including women, children and people with disabilities. As a result, more people will be able to access these facilities.

The government has also provided funding to support the full spectrum of sports pathways including key investments into women's sport including at the semi-professional and professional levels. This investment recognises that these athletes are tremendous role models in the community and help encourage females to participate in community level sport.

Our arrangements for the delivery of these projects will ensure that each of these projects maximise the benefit to the community.

- 2. Why is the government offering loans to community sports clubs rather than a grants program for upgrading community sports? What is the criteria for those loans?**

(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, page 10 of the Sport portfolio transcript)

The \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme will complement existing funding programs and provide organisations with access to low interest loans to develop community sport and recreation infrastructure. Subject to the scheme guidelines, applicants may be required to demonstrate significant community benefits, project readiness, financial stability and long term business sustainability. The Victorian Government is working to open the scheme in the coming weeks so applicants can take advantage of this new opportunity.

The Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme will be offered to community sports clubs in addition to, not instead of, community sport and recreation grant programs such as the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, Female Friendly Facilities Fund, The World Game Facilities Fund, Better Indoor Stadiums Fund and the Country Football and Netball Program. The 2018-19 Budget included an additional investment of \$15 million into the Female Friendly Facilities Fund, increasing the total fund budget to \$29 million since 2014, as well as an additional \$60 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, increasing the total budget for this fund to \$180 million since 2014.

3. With regards to female-friendly facilities, the budget has been increased from a \$100,000 grant to a \$500,000 grant per municipality. What will that mean for women being able to access sporting facilities or improving their ability to access sporting facilities?

(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, page 13 of the Sport portfolio transcript)

Through the 2018-19 State Budget, \$15 million has been committed to the 2018-19 Female Friendly Facilities Fund.

The fund has a focus on more women and girls to become active and involved in sport and active recreation. To ensure women and girls have access to appropriate playing and training facilities, the Fund has increased the types of eligible projects from exclusively change rooms to now include the development of other sports facilities such as sports grounds, sports lighting, pavilions and courts that enable, facilitate and retain participation by women and girls.

Through the application process all projects must ensure that women and girls have prioritised and equitable access to existing and new facilities. Specifically, proposals must clearly demonstrate how a project will:

- improve and enhance the experience of participating for women and girls (e.g. make change facilities for women and girls available or enable training and games to be scheduled at more convenient times for women and girls)
- increase equity, access and opportunities to new and existing sports facilities for women and girls as players and officials in sport and active recreation.

Guidelines for this program can be found at: www.sport.vic.gov.au

4. Why has the Shooting Sports Facilities program been axed?

(Asked by Mr O'Brien, page 16 of the Sport portfolio transcript)

Sporting clubs across Victoria provide significant community benefit and assistance to local communities in promoting community cohesion, social well-being and opportunities to actively participate.

The Victorian Government is proudly committed to the development of all sporting clubs and associations that bring communities together and improve facilities across Victoria. The Shooting Sports Facilities Program is an example of this commitment.

The Shooting Sports Facilities Program aims to increase the sustainability of our shooting community, promote membership and help to support vibrant, inclusive and connected communities.

The Shooting Sports Facilities Program has been extremely successful through its first two rounds with 188 projects funded through the initial \$12.48 million program. In partnership with shooting clubs, this program has collectively led to over \$18.2 million being invested in community shooting facilities, resulting in a huge boost to the sector.

The government confirmed its continuing support for the shooting sports community by committing a further \$1 million in the 2017-18 Budget to enable the continuation of the Shooting Sports Facilities Program.

Applications for Round 3 of the Shooting Sports Facilities Program closed on 30 May 2018 with 90 applications received.

My department is currently assessing these applications and I expect to receive advice on recommended grants shortly.