

18th May, 2011

Official Opening of Shoalhaven Regional Hockey Centre

The construction of a new synthetic hockey field is complete at the Bernie Regan Sporting Complex and the official opening of the Shoalhaven Regional Hockey Centre will be held on Friday 27th May. Celebrations will be held onsite, West Cambewarra Road, North Nowra, and will include a men's and women's hockey match, a BBQ and a celebrity game with players to be announced.

Budgeted to cost \$2.2 million, the new sporting complex will be rated by the Federation of International Hockey (FIH) as capable of hosting international matches. The complex is the first of its kind in the Shoalhaven, with future plans for a second synthetic field and an amenity building.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said he is impressed with the field.

"The Shoalhaven Regional Hockey Centre is a needed addition to the Shoalhaven, it is an impressive field and we are proud to have a sporting complex of such a high standard in our region" Cllr Green said. "It adds to the city's stock of recreational assets but lifts the bar on the quality of such assets. Shoalhaven needs these types of facilities if it is to provide the recreational requirements found in the bigger cities. Our businesses are trying to attract and retain key young personnel and it is quality facilities like this hockey field that are taking us up that path."

Funding for the facility came from all three levels of government that supported Shoalhaven Hockey with their contribution of \$140,000. "Under the Federal Government's Stimulus Package the \$700,000 contribution allowed many construction jobs to be created and sustained in the local area", Cllr Green added. The NSW Government made a contribution of \$75,000 with developer contributions making up the majority of the remaining funds.

Features of the Regional Hockey Centre include:

- A synthetic hockey field with the same surface as used at the Beijing Olympics and is being installed for the London Olympics.
- A field irrigation system which harvests stormwater thus reducing the use of town water by up to 60%.
- The field irrigation system that can deliver approx 6000lt in 6 minutes
- 8 light towers –that can be switched to provide either 500Lux or 300Lux depending if there is an actual game or just training.
- A dugout facility from where both teams can prepare for games and the administrators can control the players and officials, clocks and scoreboards.

A schedule of the nights proceedings are as follows;

5.45 pm – 7.00 pm	Women's hockey game – Allsorts v Shoalhaven Heads
6.30 pm	BBQ
7.15 pm	Official Opening
7.30 pm	Celebrity Game (2x15mins)
8.15 pm – 9.30 pm	Men's hockey game – Bluejays v St Georges Basin

For further information you can contact Councils Media Manager (02) 4429 3595.

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