SPORTS HUB TAKING SHAPE FOR A SUMMER OPENING

The Mount Barker regional sports hub stage 1 construction and preparation for operations are on track for a Summer 2020/21 opening.

Following opening of the AFL/Cricket Oval, a staggered approach to use of the facilities will be put in place to allow the grassed turf to mature and be able to cope with the demands of full programming.

The two soccer pitches will be playable immediately after opening.

Highlights of the current status of the project include:

⚡ SA Power Networks infrastructure is now live to the site transformer while the internal electrical works are being carried out.

🚰 The potable SA Water connection is progressing.

🚧 Kerbing, roadways, footpaths and carpark spaces are being prepared.

⚽ Construction of Football (soccer) & AFL/Cricket facilities are advancing well.

🏏 Premier oval construction is progressing with the installation of clay cricket wickets and sub-surface drainage.
Building B - ARF/Cricket progress mid September.

Building A - Soccer and pitch preparation mid September.
MANAGING THE FACILITY

The Mount Barker regional sports hub is governed by a board appointed by Council (under section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999) with four independent members and one Council Member.

Board members were appointed at the 20 January 2020 Council meeting and are:

Mr Iain Evans, Chairperson (3 year term)
Mr Paul Brown (3 year term)
Mr Peter Scargill (2 year term)
Ms Jane Russo (2 year term)
Cr Samantha Jones (appointed for the remainder of Council term [Nov 2022])

The Board is accountable to Council and its role and objectives are to:

- ensure that the facility is promoted and that there is maximum participation while seeking to minimise the cost;
- set the strategic direction and govern the operational management;
- be responsible for the strategic, financial and governance aspects;
- establish and manage lease/licence agreements with users;
- consider commercial arrangements;
- direct all activity on the site; and
- provide advice to Council on matters referred to the Board by Council.

AGREEMENTS

The Board/Council is developing best practice agreements for the future users of the regional sports hub.

These agreements will provide a unique opportunity for sports people in the region to excel in their chosen sports.

State peak bodies will be encouraged to bring competitions to the district that would not have been possible without the standard of the regional sports hub facilities.

The agreements will also address the process for community and major events and celebrations to be held at the site.
MAINTENANCE OF PLAYING SURFACES

The premium playing surfaces of the Mount Barker regional sports hub will require high levels of expertise to maintain.

The grass wicket and premium oval pose some challenges but we are fortunate through our partnership with SACA to have access to a wonderful source of knowledge that complements the expertise of Council’s horticultural staff.

Many people think that artificial turf being used on the football (soccer) pitches is maintenance free but it too brings service requirements that need regular attention to prolong the life of these fantastic surfaces and Football SA are well placed to oversee and/or provide advice.