

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

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\$10 million to support grass-roots football clubs

The State Government has announced a \$10 million budget measure to build eight artificial pitches and upgrade facilities at football (soccer) clubs across Adelaide.

The investment will be delivered through the Football Federation of South Australia, after the FFSA called for funding to meet growing interest in the sport, particularly from women.

Each artificial pitch is equivalent to three natural turf pitches, because there is no limit to the frequency with which games can be played on them.

The investment will help meet the growing interest in football and encourage more young players to enjoy the fitness and social benefits associated with participation in club sport.

Background

Participation in Football in Australia has exploded since the Socceroos beat Japan to make it to the round of 16 at the 2006 World Cup. The sport has shown the strongest growth among females, with women's football now the fastest growing participant sport in Australia.

There are in more than 40,000 registered football players in South Australia and over 350 clubs across the state providing participation opportunities to players. Clubs and teams to gain increased access to artificial pitches include:

- Adelaide City
- Adelaide Olympic
- Adelaide United Youth
- WT Birkalla
- Boys and Girls National Training Centre Programs
- Eight Women's National Premier League sides (West Adelaide, Fulham United, Metro United WFC, Sturt, Marion, Adelaide University, Para Hills, Cumberland, Adelaide City)
- Modbury Jets
- Seaford Rangers
- South Adelaide
- State Teams
- West Adelaide

White City will also receive \$250,000 for change room facilities. The \$10 million in new funding is in addition to \$150,000 recently provided to support the Adelaide United women's team 'The Lady Reds'.



Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

We saw just how much South Australia has embraced the world game when 50,000 fans filled Adelaide Oval to watch Adelaide United beat impossible odds and become A League Champions.

The incredible story of Adelaide United is sure to accelerate the already growing numbers of young people playing football.

Our football clubs need facilities to meet this growing demand, and the State Government investment in artificial pitches – which can have three-times as many games played on them as turf pitches – will help meet that demand.

We want to do everything we can to encourage South Australia's young people to be fit, active and social, and investing in facilities at sporting clubs is one of the best ways we can do this.

Quotes attributable to Recreation and Sport Minister Leon Bignell

With more than 40,000 registered football players in South Australia, we know today's announcement will be hugely popular with players, parents, volunteers and supporters.

Not only will this investment help to ensure football participation continues to grow, it further cements the State Government's dedication to supporting sport at all levels, from grassroots through to elite.

We all know how important keeping active is and that's why the State Government is also helping parents to get more children into sport with our \$50 Sports Voucher program.

The program – which was a 2014 Labor election commitment – has been a huge success with more than 60,000 vouchers redeemed in South Australia totalling \$3.1 million.

Quotes attributable to FFSA CEO Michael Carter

Participation levels in Football are at an all time high and show no sign of slowing as the popularity of the sport continues to skyrocket. An investment in local club infrastructure is in line with our Football Facilities Strategy and is a great outcome for Football.

Today's funding announcement by the State Government illustrates a strong commitment to participation in sport and Football. The \$10 million investment will offer new and improved playing opportunities for thousands of players at the local club level and throughout the state.

Football Federation SA is working closely with Local Government to unlock up to \$5 million in additional funding to further strengthen the value of our State Government's investment.

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