

**JOHN AH KIT
MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION**

3 May 2005

MORE SUPPORT FOR OUR SPORTING LIFESTYLE

Budget 2005 includes more funding for community sporting grants, better sports infrastructure and high-quality sporting events, Minister for Sport John Ah Kit announced today.

“The 2005-06 budget for Sport is \$22.6 million.

“Sport is an integral part of our great Territory lifestyle and the Martin Government is backing it so Territorians can continue to enjoy the sports we all love,” Mr Ah Kit said.

“As well as funding sport in the community, the Martin Government will continue to provide backing so Territorians can enjoy world-class sporting events right here.”

MORE FUNDS FOR TERRITORY SPORT

Since 2001, the Government had distributed almost \$27 million in sport grants to the community.

Budget 2005 continues that support with a further \$5.95 million for community sporting grants, allowing groups to buy more sporting equipment, improve their facilities, and assist with the running of their clubs.

Other highlights include:

- \$300,000 a year to assist elite athletes to compete at national and international levels
- \$150,000 for Sportsbiz – an advisory unit to strengthen management and governance capacity of sporting organisations

BETTER SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

In Budget 2005, the Martin Government will continue its program of sporting infrastructure support with:

- \$5.8 million to build Darwin’s Home of Soccer
- \$800,000 for a Drag Strip in Alice Springs
- \$3.8 million over four years for Hidden Valley upgrades, including \$900,000 to upgrade V8 Supercar Pit garages
- a new funding package for thoroughbred horse racing industry in 2004-05, rising to \$6.4 million in three years. The industry will also receive more than \$1 million for capital funding in 2004-05 and \$350,000 ongoing from 2005-06
- a capital grant of \$5 million for Stage 1 of the Palmerston Recreation Centre which will see construction of a two-court multi-purpose indoor recreation and leisure centre

These initiatives continue the Martin Government's strong investment in improved sports infrastructure across the Territory.

Other investments so far include:

- \$5.5 million to overhaul Alice Springs Traeger Park
- \$6.2 million to upgrade the Marrara Sporting Precinct
- \$500,000 to improve the Katherine sportsground
- \$2 million to build a home for the Palmerston Magpies

MORE WORLD-CLASS EVENTS IN OUR BACKYARD

The Martin Government is continuing to help bring quality sport to the Territory, with Budget 2005 providing \$2.98 million for high-quality national and international sporting events.

Government's investments in big events in Budget 2005 will support:

- \$950,000 for the V8 Supercars – July 1-3
- Around \$2.3 million for the Arafura Games in May, which will attract 3500 competitors to the Territory;
- Commonwealth Bank Trophy national netball match – June 11;
- Tasar World Championships – July 1-8;
- Samoa Vs Mosquitos Rugby Union – June 17;
- Carlton Vs Bulldogs AFL – June 18;
- Perth Wildcats NBL – January 2006;
- Wizard Cup AFL – February 2006;
- Wizard Cup Challenge AFL – Alice Springs March 2006.

“The Martin Government is providing more backing for sport so Territorians have more opportunities to enjoy our sporting lifestyle, whether they are competing or cheering on their team,” Mr Ah Kit said.

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