

Question on Notice

No. 1433

Asked on Wednesday 7 October 2009

MR PITT ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CHILD SAFETY AND MINISTER FOR SPORT (MR REEVES)—

What support is the Queensland Government giving to the sport of tennis in regional areas of Queensland, in particular the far north?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is providing significant support to the sport of tennis throughout regional areas of the State.

For example, the government, together with Tennis Queensland, has established the Regional Tennis Facilities Program to develop a network of quality tennis facilities in key regional areas of the State. This program is laying the foundation for the sport's revitalisation, with the Queensland Government contributing \$8 million and Tennis Queensland contributing \$2 million towards the establishment of five regional tennis facilities.

As announced by the Premier on 7 November 2007, the regional tennis facilities will be located in Mount Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba.

These facilities will meet International Tennis Federation standards for court dimensions, lighting and surfaces and will meet community needs for player development and training. Additionally, they will support regional, state and national tennis competitions being held in regional parts of the State.

Importantly, they will provide significantly expanded opportunities for young regional tennis players through enhanced competition schedules, including Pro-Circuit events which require International Tennis Federation standard facilities.

In Cairns, an International Tennis Federation standard facility with a total project budget of \$5 million has been approved and planning for its delivery is well underway. This includes funding of \$1,913,333 from the Department of Communities.

The project includes:

- 12 International Tennis Federation standard acrylic courts, high quality lighting system to all courts, with one show court and space for the erection of temporary grandstands; and
- new clubhouse facilities including management offices, pro-shop, café, ablutions, small gymnasium, car parking and landscaping.

When completed, this will be a wonderful addition to the State's regional tennis infrastructure and will provide opportunities for people of all ages and skills to participate in the sport of tennis.

The Bligh Government has also recently provided the following funding towards the sport of tennis in far north Queensland:

- Under Club Development Programs, \$22,399 has been committed for various projects including Redlynch Valley Tennis Club, Cairns Junior Tennis Association, Mareeba Tennis Club, Innisfail and District Tennis Association, Port Douglas Tennis Club and Ravenshoe Tennis Club.
- In 2006, under the Cyclone Larry Disaster Assistance Program, \$100,000 has been provided for repairs to tennis facilities including Ravenshoe Tennis Club, Mission Beach Tennis Club, Walkamin Sporting Club, Cassowary Coast Tennis Club, Silkwood Tennis Club, Malanda Tennis Club, Gordonvale and District Tennis Association,

Innisfail and District Tennis Association, Atherton Tennis Club and Tully Tennis and Social Club.

- In March 2007, the Torres Strait Regional Council was approved a grant of \$4,757 from the Local Sport and Recreation Program to conduct a multi-skills tennis program at Ugar (Stephens) Island.
- In July 2008, Silkwood Tennis Club received a further flood assistance grant of \$5,000.
- Innisfail and District Tennis Association, Trinity Beach Tennis Club, Ravenshoe Tennis Club and Freshwater Tennis Club have been funded under the Minor Facilities Program to upgrade tennis court surfaces to the combined value of \$194,224.

In 2009, Innisfail and District Tennis Association and Silkwood Tennis Club have been funded for a total of \$7,500 under the Sport and Recreation Disaster Program for repairs following flooding in January.

Total funding under the Young Athlete Assistance Program of \$2,800 was provided to young athletes from far north Queensland to travel to tennis championships and tournaments in 2009.

Between 1 January 2005 and 12 October 2009, total funding of \$734,937 was approved for multi-sport facilities which included tennis facilities in far north Queensland.

This demonstrates the Bligh Government's strong commitment to providing funding support to tennis facilities throughout regional areas of the State, including far north Queensland, and I look forward to the participation and player development opportunities these facilities will provide for the community in the future.