

Question on Notice

No. 1470

Asked on Thursday 8 October 2009

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

How is the sport of tennis being supported in Toowoomba by the department?

ANSWER:

The Bligh Government is providing significant support to the sport of tennis in the Toowoomba region.

Toowoomba is one of five locations for new regional tennis centres being developed under the Regional Tennis Facilities Program which was established by the State government in partnership with Tennis Queensland.

This program is laying the foundation for the sport's revitalisation, with the government contributing \$8 million and Tennis Queensland contributing \$2 million towards the establishment of five new regional tennis facilities.

Regional tennis facilities developed under the program 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.

The Toowoomba Regional Tennis Facility, which will be an International Tennis Federation standard facility, is being established on the campus of the University of Southern Queensland with a total approved project budget of \$2,676,000. This includes Department of Communities funding of \$1,374,320.

Additional funding contributions include \$301,680 from Tennis Queensland, \$100,000 from the Toowoomba Tennis Association, \$600,000 from the University of Southern Queensland and \$300,000 from the Toowoomba Regional Council.

The university has provided the land on which the facility will be built.

The project includes:

- upgrading the existing three court facility to International Tennis Federation size standard;
- nine new International Tennis Federation standard acrylic courts, including a high quality lighting system to these courts and space for the erection of temporary grandstands; and
- a clubhouse including canteen, office, pro-shop and ablutions with the final scope of works to be determined following a review of existing amenities within Clive Berghoffer Sports Centre which this site adjoins.

Other recent funding commitments from Bligh Government towards the sport of tennis in the Toowoomba region include the following:

- Under Club Development Programs, \$26,714 has been committed for various projects including tennis training and tennis coaching clinics at Pittsworth, Clifton and District, Westbrook and Wyreema.
- Under the Local Sport and Recreation Program, funding of \$46,169 has been provided to Toowoomba Regional Council for multi-purpose sport and recreation initiatives at Toowoomba and Yarraman, including a tennis court.

- Toowoomba Tennis Association and Brymaroo Tennis Club have been funded under the Minor Facilities Program to upgrade tennis court surfaces to the combined value of \$65,108.
- Total funding since January 2005 under the Young Athlete Assistance Program was provided to young athletes to travel to tennis championships and tournaments to the value of \$2,050.

This demonstrates the Bligh Government's strong commitment to providing funding support to tennis facilities in regional areas of the State such as Toowoomba and we look forward to the participation and player development opportunities these facilities will provide for the community in the future.