

Question on Notice

No. 1965

Asked on 6 October 2010

MR SHINE asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise what measures are being undertaken to advance the sport of tennis in Toowoomba?

ANSWER

Over the years Toowoomba has produced some of Australia's top tennis players. These players have developed their skills on many different courts with many different surfaces.

The Bligh Government recognises the important role sports such as tennis contribute to the local community. On 8 October 2010, I was very pleased join the Member to launch the new \$3.6 million Toowoomba Regional Tennis Centre at the University of Southern Queensland project, which will create nine new International Tennis Federation standard courts and construct a clubhouse.

As we announced that day, the Bligh Government has committed funding of almost \$2.24 million to get this important project off the ground.

The centre is part of the Government's \$18.5 million Regional Tennis Facility Program which will see five International Tennis Federation rated regional tennis facilities constructed across the State in Mount Isa, Cairns (which has just conducted a Davis Cup draw), Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba.

This program is designed to enable many more Queenslanders to access International Tennis Federation rated facilities.

The Toowoomba project is another great example of the Queensland Government working in partnership with key stakeholders. In this case, the University, Toowoomba Regional Council, Toowoomba Tennis and Tennis Queensland are all key partners.

Additionally, over the last five years, the Queensland Government has assisted in the construction and upgrading of 14 courts, including two indoor courts, utilising subsidies of over \$406,000 in the Toowoomba Regional Council area. As well as infrastructure, the Government has also provided \$42,000 in funding for club development and training to help build stronger and more efficient tennis clubs in the region.

This Government is committed to providing sport and recreation facilities that help people to get active, and work with industry leaders to build capacity within the sport and recreation industry.

We have made the tough economic decisions to enable a greater investment in sport and recreation than any other State or Territory in Australia.

This project contributes to the *Toward Q2: Tomorrow's Queensland* initiative of helping Queenslanders become Australia's healthiest people by reducing obesity levels by one third by 2020.

I congratulate the Member on his commitment to making these tennis facilities in Toowoomba a reality.