

Question on Notice
No. 980
Asked on 1 September 2021

MR M BOOTHMAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION AND MINISTER FOR SPORT (HON S HINCHLIFFE) —

QUESTION:

With reference to Question on Notice No. 246 asked on the 11th April 2021, many local community sporting groups within the Theodore Electorate are continuing to wait for assistance with funding for large infrastructure projects—

Will the Minister inform sporting groups of the expected availability of large Queensland Government infrastructure grants or has this program been cut?

ANSWER:

A key initiative of the Queensland Government's *Activate! Queensland 2019-2029* strategy was the Active Community Infrastructure (ACI) initiative. This program invested up to \$1 million towards sport and active recreation infrastructure projects, with an emphasis on collaboration; delivering projects that would provide long-term benefits for entire communities.

A total of \$27.98 million was invested across 63 projects under this program.

As is well known, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had significant impacts across all industries and communities including the sport and active recreation industry.

Since March 2020, the Queensland Government has worked through the challenges facing the sport and recreation industry to ensure that it can continue to operate in a COVID Safe manner and emerge stronger.

To support the industry throughout this time, it was necessary to reassess priorities and redirect investment to provide a COVID response relevant to industry needs.

Following extensive industry consultation, in May 2020 the \$51.3 million Sport and Recreation COVID SAFE Restart Plan was announced and included grant funding for eligible clubs and organisations to support a safe return to play.

While the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the future of sport and recreation capital grant programs are still being considered, including the ACI initiative.

The Queensland Government's infrastructure investments need to be targeted at the kind of projects that will ensure clubs and organisations can successfully run their seasons and deliver their activities to new and existing members in the current environment.

In line with this, the Queensland Government recently announced a new sport and recreation capital grants program, Active Gameday Projects, which opened on 27 September 2021.

This new program will invest over \$9 million to support the sport and active recreation industry on the road to recovery by investing in smaller scale infrastructure project that will benefit local communities.

The funding will support "field of play" participation enhancing works, that meet community level playing requirements and that encourage greater community participation. Types of projects will include sports lighting, develop or upgrade playing space, and irrigation.

Funding between \$50 000 to \$150 000 will be available for eligible organisations towards a maximum project value of \$500 000.

This funding will ensure clubs and organisations can maintain a quality field of play for their members to participate safely, while also having the potential to create more opportunities for people to train or compete across more days, and nights.