

FOREST HILL COLLEGE SCORES NEW SYNTHETIC PITCH

From the Minister for Sport & Recreation

Tuesday, 03 August 2010

Aspiring Forest Hill sports stars will benefit from a \$235,000 Brumby Labor Government boost towards a new synthetic multi-use pitch and external running track at Forest Hill College.

Sports Minister James Merlino and Member for Forest Hill Kirstie Marshall today visited the school to officially announce the funding for the new all-weather facility.

"Victorians are passionate about their sport," Mr Merlino said.

"The new synthetic pitch and track will become an ideal place for the College to stage sports events and students to develop their skills and emulate their sporting heroes.

"Local sports clubs and the community will also be able to take advantage of the new facility."

Mr Merlino said synthetic surfaces were also low-maintenance, could withstand more wear and tear, and don't require watering, making them particularly ideal during times of drought.

"The great advantage of synthetic surfaces is that they can be used up to three times as much as a comparable grassed pitch and can be used all year round," he said.

Ms Marshall said the Forest Hill community was the big winner in the new boost.

"This means even more clubs in the Forest Hill area, local community members as well as Forest Hill College students, can benefit from active lifestyles providing a major boost for a College and community that loves sport," Ms Marshall said.

"I congratulate Forest Hill Secondary College for its initiative in developing this project."

Ms Marshall said the Victorian Government had provided more than \$27 million to keep sport alive in local communities despite the constant threat of climate change and drought.

"Initiatives like synthetic surface facilities to help local communities develop sustainable approaches to water management at sporting facilities, enabling them to support higher levels of use and participation, especially in times of drought," she said.

"We don't want any Victorians to miss out on the benefits of an active lifestyle. That's why we're working closely with local communities to improve the quality, accessibility and, in this case, drought-proofing local sporting facilities."