FINAL PIECE OF FUNDING FOR ROCHESTER TENNIS COURTS SECURED

A contribution of $100,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) is the final piece in the funding puzzle that will see the much-anticipated Rochester tennis courts project become a reality.

Campaspe Mayor, Cr Adrian Weston, welcomed SRV’s confirmation of the funds.

“We are delighted to announce that the project to deliver two hard-surface, multi-purpose tennis courts and lighting at Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve, can now go ahead, thanks to SRV providing the final $100,000 towards the project,” Cr Weston said.

“This project has been council’s and the community’s number one recreation priority for Rochester for some time now, so it’s great news for local residents that this important community recreation infrastructure can now be delivered.”

The project was identified as the number one priority through an extensive Community Recreation Grants Program facilitated by council over the past two years, regarding the redistribution of funds raised through the sale of an irrigation water right. (An amount of $481,883 was provided to Campaspe Shire Council in 2010 by the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project to allow council to exit the Campaspe Irrigation System located at the Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve. In November 2011, council resolved to use these funds for the recreation needs of the Rochester community, and to develop guidelines and a process to determine the range and priority of projects that would be funded.)

The works will involve construction of two concrete hard-courts with synthetic grass surfaces, to replace two grass courts on the eastern end of the existing courts. Four light poles and lighting will also be installed.

“Rochester currently has no useable hard-courts with a Tennis Australia-approved surface and this project will deliver a raft of benefits to the Rochester community, including a safer environment for players and expanded playing opportunities,” said Rochester Ward Councillor, Cr Leigh Wilson.

“The firm base of the courts will not only ensure a more predictable ball bounce but will provide a more even surface which will help decrease the risk of injury to players, young and old, and increase accessibility.

“The construction of hard-courts will enable year-round activity for the Rochester Tennis Club, with twilight and night games, as well as extended use of the facility into the winter months for both club and community competition.

“Opportunities for casual use of the courts will also open up, especially for people who wish to use them in the evenings.”
"The hard-courts will allow multi-use of the facility by creating opportunities for local hockey training, the introduction of futsal and small field games. This gives greater access to the broader community while not increasing asset costs to council."

The total cost estimate of the project is $410,682, with funding contributions as follows:

- **$266,152**  Rochester Community Recreation Grant (Campaspe Shire Council)
- **$100,000**  Sport & Recreation Victoria – Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (Minor Facilities)
- **$22,000**  Contributions from clubs: Rochester Tennis Club, St Joseph’s Tennis Club, 4Rs
- **$22,530**  In-kind contributions from local suppliers, contractors and volunteers

The project is also supported locally by schools, Midweek Ladies Tennis, St John’s (former tennis club) and Campaspe Tennis Association.

Labor Upper House Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said it was an exciting project.

“I am very proud that Labor is delivering this project with council and providing the facilities they need to attract new members,” Ms Symes said.

“We are getting on with the job of providing country communities with the facilities they need. These new and expanded facilities will be a massive boost to the Rochester Tennis Club.”

Cr Wilson praised the committee who have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the project and their dedication and foresight to ensuring the future of the club and facilities needed.

"Now that all project funding has been confirmed, a construction schedule will be developed to complete the project as soon as practicable," Cr Wilson added.

Council will project manage the works on behalf of the community.

The development of the hard-court facility at the Rochester Tennis Club is the first of the Rochester Community Recreation Grant projects to be fully funded. Council is now working with the Rochester Recreation Reserve Committee on funding applications for the lighting upgrade projects for the football oval and netball courts.

To coordinate an interview or seek further information contact:

Communications Unit, 5481 2203
Email: s.ennis@campaspe.vic.gov.au