

Foster Showgrounds Grant Submission

At South Gippsland Shire Council's July meeting yesterday, Council endorsed the application for funding under the Victorian Government's 2021/22 Country Football Netball Program for the Foster Showgrounds – Oval Upgrade and Irrigation Project. This application will seek \$150,000 towards the project under the State-run program, alongside Council's \$260,000 contribution if the bid is successful to accompany \$20,000 in community contributions.

The proposed project endeavours to utilise recycled water from the waste water treatment plant, which is now available at the Foster Showgrounds. This recycled water will be run through a new automatic irrigation system that will be installed at the oval. The project will also include appropriate drainage, levelling and resurfacing of the oval.

The benefits that this project will bring to the community include:

- An unlimited supply of affordable recycled water for use on the oval and recreation reserve which is a Council-owned asset;
- A saving of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year in water costs for maintaining the ground for community use, markets, and Agricultural Show with equestrian events; and
- The resurfacing works will improve the safety and longevity of the playing surface at the Foster Showgrounds, which is important for the safety of equestrian rides and horses as well as footballers.

Originally, funding was sought under the 2020/21 Sport and Recreation Fund, but the application was unsuccessful and Council were recommended to resubmit the application to the next appropriate round of funding.

Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Council Chair Administrator, Julie Eisenbise:

"We are pleased to endorse the application to the 2021/22 Country Football Netball Program to gain funding for the Foster Showgrounds oval upgrade.

"We would like to thank the Foster community, for their willingness to contribute their own funds to help make this project happen. It is yet another illustration of how passionate our community are about their towns."

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