



**MEDIA RELEASE: FRIDAY, 30 NOVEMBER, 2018**

**Friendlies Oval upgrade underway**

Redevelopment works on the Euroa Friendlies Oval have begun with the recent removal of the old concrete wicket and boundary fence.

Current works include the reshaping of the playing surface, widening of the oval at the north and south ends and preparation of the ground with soil and fertiliser.

The next steps for the project will include the replantation of the ground with Santa Ana couch grass including three new turf wickets, the establishment of an automated irrigation system and a new white picket boundary fence.

Rob Asquith, Friendlies Oval Subcommittee member and one of the drivers of the project along with Peter Morley and Peter Woodhouse, said it is great to see works underway.

"We have had such wonderful support from the local community through fundraising so it is great to be able to start delivering the project," Mr Asquith said.

"It is going to be a fantastic ground for our local cricket, hockey and tennis clubs, as well as significantly improving the presentation of Euroa when coming in from the northern entry."

Seven Creeks Ward Councillor and Chair of the Friendlies Oval Subcommittee, Cr John Mason said it is fantastic to see the committee and local community rewarded for their efforts.

"Council is so pleased to be able to partner with our community and the Victorian Government to ensure the long-term future of the Friendlies Oval," Cr Mason said.

"The end product will be a high calibre facility which will be valued and utilised by, not only its many user groups, but the whole community."

The \$210,000 upgrade is being funded through \$100,000 from the Victorian Government's *Community Sports and Infrastructure Fund*, a \$60,000 contribution from the Friendlies Oval Committee of Management raised through community fundraising and a \$50,000 contribution from Strathbogrie Shire Council.

Planning has commenced for Stages 2 and 3 of the oval's redevelopment which would see external amenities updated and landscaped as part of Stage 2, and the development of a new multi-purpose clubhouse, which would accommodate a number of sporting groups.

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