



THE HON KATE ELLIS MP
Minister for Sport

MEDIA RELEASE

20 June 2008

**Rudd Government Funds Gippsland
Sport and Recreation Upgrades**

Sport and recreation facilities in Traralgon West and Mallacoota are set to benefit from more than \$700,000 in upgrades funded in the Rudd Government's recent budget.

Visiting the region today with Labor candidate Darren McCubbin, the Federal Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis, said the Government was contributing \$160,000 towards the Traralgon West Sports Complex and \$550,000 towards the Mallacoota Pathways.

"The Rudd Government is honouring its election commitments to develop and upgrade local infrastructure to encourage greater participation in grassroots community sport and recreation activities," Ms Ellis said.

The Mallacoota Pathway will link the Karbeethong area with the Mallacoota village. It will include boardwalk sections and parallel the western edge of the 'Bottom Lake'.

The redevelopment of the Traralgon West Sports Complex will include:

- extension of the complex, including new public toilets;
- upgrade of the ovals, including irrigation, re-alignment of fields, surface upgrade, coaches boxes, score boards and lighting, seating and shelter;
- establishment of BBQ and picnic areas; and
- construction of fences and barriers to block inappropriate vehicle access and define playing fields.

Funding for the Traralgon West Sports Complex will be provided in 2008-09. Funding for the Mallacoota Pathways will be provided over two years beginning in 2008-09.

"I congratulate the local communities here in Gippsland on their strong advocacy for these projects. Darren McCubbin has certainly been a strong voice in ensuring the Government knows just how important Federal sports funding is to Gippsland families," Ms Ellis said.

"Investment in community sport and recreation is an investment in the health and wellbeing of the nation."

"We are delivering improved facilities and opportunities for local sports that will encourage more Australians to participate in sport and active recreation."

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