

Lilydale Recreation Reserve S.O.S

Liberal Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe invited Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunty to the Yarra Valley on Friday (21/5/10) to discuss the sporting priorities of the area. One of the issues of focus included the Lilydale Recreation Reserve and the need for further funding to upgrade the home of the Lilydale Football Club.

“Having received a number of complaints about the state of Lilydale Recreation Reserve’s playing surface, I was glad to see council agree to immediately fund a 300 square metre temporary upgrade, to allow the Lilydale Falcons to complete their football season. However the ground will require a total resurfacing as soon as possible,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“Even with the temporary upgrade, the ground still has a number of problems including holes near the goal squares that require attention,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“As a person with a long experience in football, I am disappointed to see the standard of the ground considering it is catering for a division 1 club, juniors and up and comers, Mr Delahunty said.

“The oval’s surface surprised me as it has three different grasses including synthetic grass and is very uneven in areas, making it below par for playing football,” Mr Delahunty said.

“Lilydale Recreation Reserve is considered the premier football ground for the Shire. As such we need to ensure it is kept in pristine condition,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“It wouldn’t require a lot of money to bring the grounds up to a high standard. There is money in the State Budget to cater for summer grasses which would give the clubs a more consistent playing surface once it has been established that the drainage on the grounds is adequate,” Mr Delahunty said.

The ground is also home to RecLink’s Outer East Eagles.

“RecLink was established to assist people experiencing social and economic disadvantage access sporting and recreational opportunities as a form of social therapy, so the need for the upgrade is about more than simply where the club happens to be sitting on the ladder,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“Any repair work must take into consideration the playing schedule of the clubs so that their positions in their respective leagues are not compromised,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“The social and health benefits of participating and staying physically fit are very rewarding. So it is vital that we improve these facilities to promote sporting activities so that there can be no excuses for sitting on the sidelines,” Mr Delahunty said.

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