

HON MICHAEL WRIGHT MP
Minister for Recreation, Sport & Racing

Sport SA Forum
Tuesday 2nd March 2010

I am delighted to be here again tonight. Everyone in this room is passionate about sport, and it is great that we have this opportunity to discuss the future of sport in South Australia. I well remember back in 2002, discussing the possibility of staging such a forum with your former CEO Kathy Stanton, who embraced the concept whole-heartedly. It is fantastic to see that it is still going strong to this day as another election approaches.

Sport SA plays a central role in sports policy and management in this State. Your organisation represents its membership strongly as an advocate to Government, and we share a common goal of strengthening the sport and recreation industry for all stakeholders.

The Australian sporting landscape was recently critiqued like never before.

The Independent Sport Panel Report - more commonly known as the Crawford Report – has generated enormous interest and debate in the sporting community, and in the media.

The report makes 39 recommendations which, if adopted, will herald major reform right across the industry, and will challenge how government at all levels – federal, state and local – work together to successfully deliver sport and recreation outcomes for the community.

When I met with the Chair of the Independent Sport Panel – David Crawford - and subsequently at two recent Sport and Recreation Ministerial Council meetings, I argued strongly for more money to grassroots sports, and for the urgent reinstatement of Physical Education in the national school curriculum.

Much of the industry and media focus on the Crawford Report has centred on its comments and recommendations concerning elite sport. I can assure everyone here tonight that the Government is committed to maintaining the South Australian Sports Institute as a State-controlled and funded facility.

We are very proud of the great success achieved by SASI programs, with SASI athletes reaching the world sporting stage and contributing to World and Olympic medal success at a level belying our proportion of the national population.

We have also attracted and developed vital partnerships between SASI and the Australian Institute of Sport, which have resulted in tangible benefits for our State including hosting national elite programs in Beach Volleyball, Trampolining, Cycling, Rowing and Canoe/Kayak.

Through my meetings with the Crawford Report Panel and with other State and Federal Sport and Recreation Ministers, it has become clear that the provision of sporting facilities is a major national issue that requires coordinated planning and funding across all levels of Government.

The demand on both State and Local Government to manage, maintain and develop community sport infrastructure is ever-increasing.

There is also a growing recognition among sporting bodies that facility and other infrastructure sharing opportunities should be promoted in the interest of effective and efficient use of land and resources.

The days of multi million-dollar stand-alone facilities for the exclusive use of just one sport are over. The future is co-locating sports in locations and venues that will allow them to reduce operating costs and access state of the art facilities.

Last June I announced funding of \$250,000 to develop a business case into the development of Community Based Sports Hubs, which would ensure the long-term sustainability of sports in South Australia. This study will determine the feasibility, cost, location and development models for a series of community sports hubs in South Australia's urban and regional areas.

The result will be a blueprint for the provision of a range of multi-use community sporting activities that will be flexible enough to accommodate changing use over time.

We are looking at opportunities to co-locate sports with similar requirements for facilities, as well as identifying other community organisations and services that could be co-located alongside these sports.

This project is providing the planned approach needed to make sure our state's future sporting facility needs can be met in a sustainable manner .

SportSA, as well as the Local Government Association have been key partners in this project. SportSA had valuable input into drafting the Terms of Reference for the project, which has placed a real focus on sustainability and achieving the best outcomes for sport.

The Terms of Reference include:

- the development of a model for the establishment, management, operation and sustainability of Community Sports Hubs
- identifying appropriate areas and locations for these Hubs
- providing three fully costed "test cases" including a detailed implementation plan.

The Campbelltown Leisure Centre project provides the first example of this new way of thinking about the provision of sporting facilities in the community.

In January I was delighted to announce a State Government commitment of \$3 million towards the \$15 million redevelopment of the Campbelltown Leisure Centre.

This project has all the ingredients necessary to make a sustainable sporting hub work. The new Leisure Centre is to be jointly funded in partnership by Federal, State and Local Government, with significant contributions also coming from Stateswim and Squash SA. .

The redeveloped Campbelltown Leisure Centre will feature

- A 25 metre indoor heated pool
- An interchangeable court space, which can be adapted to suit basketball, futsal, volleyball, netball, indoor bowls and badminton.
- 6 adaptable squash courts with retractable walls enabling use by other sports

This is an innovative project which will address the shortage of indoor sports facilities in our north-eastern suburbs, and will cater for more than 35 community, education, sporting, learn to swim, dance and school groups. It will also deliver the critical mass and diversity

of activities necessary to create a sustainable sporting hub, with visits to the facility expected to increase from 8 000 visits per month to over 20 000.

The Government has also committed \$5million to kick-start a new Community Sports Hub at Port Augusta – the first to be located in a regional centre. This project will also be jointly funded by Federal, State and Local Governments, and will bring the sports of basketball, soccer, netball and football together at the one central venue. The new indoor stadium will also provide an entertainment venue, ensuring that the facility will be sustainable into the future by providing an alternative income stream.

The final Community Sports Hubs report is due in April, and this will identify where the next series of sports hubs should be located.

Through this report the Government is keen to foster a spirit of co-operation by giving State Sporting Associations and Local Government more ownership in this process. Peak sporting bodies and Local Government will be able to have more input into the facility development processes to ensure the priorities of the sporting community and Councils are being addressed. By pooling resources and focussing on a single goal, we can expect to see some real solutions.

Without pre-empting the report's findings, I would expect one of the new Hubs to be located on land at the State Sports Park. The 30 year plan for Greater Adelaide and the draft Hubs report both identify State Sports Park as a site for a major sporting hub. This is land that the Liberal Party has already pledged to sell-off for housing.

Our Labor Government is committed to retaining State Sports Park at Gepps Cross as a Sports Hub and will not, under any circumstances, be selling this land off for housing.

While there is certainly a demand for an inner city sports venue, it should not be funded by selling off our grass roots sporting assets. This is one of the key reasons why our plan for a redeveloped Adelaide Oval is the only sensible solution for bringing elite level spectator sport into the city.

Our Adelaide Oval plan will not require any land sell offs, and it will create a significant, world-class sporting hub right in the centre of the city. As part of this proposal, the much-

loved Memorial Drive complex will also receive significant upgrades including a roof to convert it into an all-weather multi purpose venue.

Since we last spoke in this corresponding forum four years ago, we have committed significant funding to enhance sport and recreation infrastructure and provide improved opportunities for athletes in our State.

- We have provided more than \$46 million through our grant programs.
- We have committed \$450 million to the Adelaide Oval redevelopment so that it can host AFL matches, International Cricket and World Cup Soccer and Rugby matches
- We have also provided well over \$100 million to major sporting infrastructure projects, including the new world class State Aquatic Centre being built at Marion.

The fantastic new State Aquatic Centre will be a significant asset for the community and the State. It will feature international standard competition and training swimming, diving and water polo facilities, and will provide a new world-class home for our SASI aquatic coaching programs.

Importantly, it will also mean that South Australia will be able to host major international events. Already this has seen us secure the 2011 National Aged Swimming Championships, and the 2012 World Life Saving Championships, as well as the FINA World Diving Junior Championships in 2012.

Labor has also provided significant funding for a variety of other new and upgraded sporting facilities including:

- a new International Rowing Course at West Lakes
- the new criterium cycling track at Victoria Park
- a new video replay screen at Hindmarsh Stadium
- Upgrades to the Memorial Drive tennis complex
- the development of the Eagle Park Mountain Bike Park
- Purchase of a multi purpose portable sports floor for netball and basketball
- SANTOS Stadium athletics track upgrade
- the hockey pitch replacement at State Sports Park.

We all know sport is about more than just facilities. At its heart, sport is about having fun, leading a healthy life, and enjoying being active.

To this end, the Government has addressed the alarming decline in physical activity levels by promoting active and healthy lifestyle choices through the *be active* Campaign.

And the campaign is working. ABS data shows that after being in decline, SA's physical activity participation rates have fought back to national levels. In terms of involvement in organised sport and recreation, we exceed national benchmarks in playing involvement, as well as in non-playing roles such as coaching and officiating, and sports committee membership. The great work of the Office for Recreation and Sport in developing the *be active* campaign, and the strong support of Sport SA, associations and clubs, has delivered positive results.

Labor has also introduced two new grant programs aimed specifically at creating opportunities for disabled and inactive people to participate in physical activity. Through these new programs - *Move It* and *Inclusive Recreation Inclusive Sport* -, we have contributed more than \$6 million in funding to increase participation rates and ensure a wider reach for sport and recreation throughout the community.

Since 2002 we have also contributed more than \$53 million to Peak Sporting Bodies and Sporting Organisations to enable them to successfully run their sports, and to make sure there is a wide range of sporting options available for South Australians. The change to a tri-annual funding model through the Statewide Enhancement Program has been crucial in providing certainty for sports organisations.

We have worked hard to make sure that we are now well positioned to capitalise on the exciting times ahead for sport in this state. This Government is best placed to deliver the desired results.

We are putting in place a framework, which has a real focus on the forging of partnerships, with Local Government, with Federal Government, and especially with you- the Sports.

Through this approach we will be able to capitalise on the opportunities created and deliver the results for sport in this state that we are all looking for. It is the way of the

future, the way to get results, and it is a direction I am committed to and determined to drive.

Finally, thank you for your continuing contribution to sport. I have always believed we are in this together, and I share your passion for the future of sport. The job ahead is clear. We have to keep driving the message about the need for regular physical activity to increase participation rates, we have to get sustainable hub based sporting facilities that maximise the opportunities for clubs and sports, and we have to provide clear pathways for our elite athletes. That is what I want to commit my efforts towards working with you over the next 4 years.