



JAMES MERLINO MP

STATE MEMBER FOR MONBULK



office: 1635 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave 3160 p: 9754 5401 e: james.merlino@parliament.vic.gov.au
jamesmerlino.com.au JamesMerlinoMP JamesMerlinoMP

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 12th October 2018

KICKING GOALS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MOOROOLBARK

Esther Park Pavillion will finally get the female-friendly sport facilities they deserve thanks to a funding boost from the Andrews Labor Government.

Member for Monbulk James Merlino today joined club representatives at the popular venue in Mooroolbark to announce the Labor Government is kicking in \$500,000 from the *Female Friendly Facilities Fund* to redevelop the existing pavilion, as well as a new building to offer equality in facilities through the provision of unisex change facilities and amenities at Esther Park.

Women and girls are signing up to play local sport in record numbers across Victoria, but many of the state's changeroom facilities don't cater for females. We're changing that.

Today's grant announcement will enable Yarra Ranges Council to redevelop the Esther Park Pavilion over the next two years.

This builds on the \$1.25 million recently provided for a multi-pitch synthetic soccer facility with lighting for Esther Park as part of the 2018/19 *Growing Suburbs Fund*.

The project will include building new unisex accessible change rooms to facilitate female participation, redeveloping old facilities to allow female participation, and developing or upgrading change facilities and amenities for female officials such as umpires.

Every player deserves equal access to high quality facilities and these grants will benefit every woman and girl who participates in sport and active recreation in the area.

Mr Merlino acknowledged partners Yarra Ranges Council and Mooroolbark Soccer Club for their financial contributions to the \$2.4 million project.

The *Female Friendly Facilities Fund* is part of the Labor Government's strong commitment to sports and active recreation, gender equality and to encourage all Victorians to get out there and get active.

Quotes attributable to Member for Monbulk, James Merlino

"Congratulations to Mooroolbark Soccer Club - this boost will go a long way to support the growing number of people in the community keen to get involved in local sport and recreation. "

"This is a great example of how we're making sport and recreation more accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all Victorians."

Media Contact: Matthew Dixon 0438 190 148 | Matthew.Dixon@minstaff.vic.gov.au



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