

Media Release



Monday 27 April 2020

A win for the Hills region as funding secured to remediate bushfire impacted ovals

The entire Adelaide Hills community will benefit from a \$210,250 grant from the AFL Community Relief Fund to repair and rebuild five football ovals across the Council area that were impacted by the Cudlee Creek Bushfires.

The grant represents a share of \$1.2 million which was awarded to clubs and leagues across South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Dr Jan-Claire Wisdom, Adelaide Hills Council Mayor says these ovals are important assets that bring families and friends together, especially during the football and cricket seasons.

“The impact on our ovals demonstrates the widespread and ongoing effect that the Cudlee Creek Bushfires have had and continue to have on our community.”

The ovals at Balhannah, Gumeracha, Lobethal, Mount Torrens and Woodside were all compromised during the course of the Cudlee Creek Bushfires. They were utilised by emergency services for critical functions or as last resort refuges, with significant volumes of traffic having an impact on their condition.

“Each of the ovals experienced some level of damage. Following assessments after the Cudlee Creek Bushfires, the Council worked with each of the clubs to determine what was required to repair the grounds and offer safe conditions for all users.”

The remediation works will be carried out over the next 12 months and will ensure that playing surfaces are ready when the football season resumes, following the current COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The funding will also significantly contribute to the cost of pitch covers for each of the ovals.

“Securing this funding is a fantastic outcome for the Hills region and the result of a great partnership and collaboration with a range of organisations to develop the applications,” says Mayor Wisdom.

The Council worked closely with affected Hills football clubs, the SANFL, SACA, Sport SA and Living Turf to prepare the application which was awarded in full by the AFL Community Relief Fund.

The Community Relief Fund was established by the AFL to support local communities in fire affected areas to repair and rebuild their football clubs. The fund has even gone as far as helping footballing families in these impacted communities around the country.

SANFL Chief Executive Officer Jake Parkinson says the funding was vital in ensuring these football clubs and the broader Adelaide Hills community could recover from the devastating bushfires.

Media Release



“Sport is the lifeblood of regional communities and ensuring we have the facilities to support it is crucial.

“I’m thrilled we have been able to assist in facilitating this urgently needed funding which will enhance football participation in the Adelaide Hills and help retain valuable volunteers, providing a healthy and vital connection for these communities.”

A further round of applications from community football clubs will be assessed in August 2020. Any Hills clubs seeking support through this fund for remediation or longer term recovery support are encouraged to contact the Council to discuss their application.

More information about the AFL Community Relief Fund can be found at afl.com.au

Media Contact:

Jennifer Blake, Manager Communications, Engagement and Events
8408 0430 | 0437 114 698