



**MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY, 2018**

**Major funding announced for upgrade to Friendlies Oval Euroa**

Strathbogie Shire welcomed \$100,000 funding announcement from the Victorian Government's *Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Cricket Facilities fund* toward a major upgrade of Euroa's Friendlies Oval.

The \$210,000 upgrade will be funded through the grant in conjunction with a \$50,000 contribution from the Friendlies Oval Committee of Management, which was raised through fundraising, and a \$50,000 contribution from Strathbogie Shire Council.

Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes visited the oval last week to make the funding announcement.

The upgrade will result in development of a new surface for the oval and will include the widening of the oval at the north and south ends by 6 metres, installation of a new watering system and replacement of existing perimeter fencing with white picket fencing.

The removal of the oval's existing concrete wicket will allow for construction of multiple new turf wickets in the centre of the ground as part of the redevelopment.

Strathbogie Shire Council Deputy Mayor John Mason described the project as a major windfall for the area.

"It is an incredible opportunity for Euroa, to establish what will be an iconic sporting ground at its completion, situated on one of the main entrances to the town.

"The end product will be a high calibre facility which will be valued and utilised by not only its many user groups but the whole community," he said.

Councillor Mason congratulated the Friendlies Oval Committee of Management on successfully raising more than \$50,000 toward the project.

"The fundraising efforts reflect the community's willingness to support the Committee's vision and the hard work and commitment of all those involved," he said.

Planning has commenced for Stage 2 and 3 of the oval's redevelopment which would see external amenities updated and landscaped as part of Stage 2, and the development of a new multi-purpose clubhouse, which would accommodate a number of sporting groups.

<ENDS>

**Media contact:** Clare Allen- 0418 336 078

**Key spokesperson:** Deputy Mayor Councillor John Mason- 0429 898 473