

MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Government commits \$4.95m to commence Stage 1 of Frankston Basketball Stadium Expansion Project



(from left: Frankston Basketball President Steve Ashley; Frankston City Mayor James Dooley; Bruce Billson; Frankston City Councillor Glenn Aitken; Frankston City CEO Dennis Hoverden; Frankston Basketball GM Nathan Jolly)



(from left: Frankston Basketball President Steve Ashley; Bruce Billson; Frankston Basketball Board members Gary Emery, Rob Little & Ian Watt celebrate NSRF result)

The Frankston Basketball Stadium expansion project has achieved another significant milestone with Federal MP for Dunkley Mr Bruce Billson [announcing the project will receive \\$4,950,000 \(\\$4.95m\)](#) in funding as part of the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund programme. This much needed investment will allow Stage 1 of the project to commence with preliminary works scheduled to begin in early 2016 and major works commencing in mid-2016.

A long-time supporter of Frankston Basketball, Mr Billson could not hide his excitement when making the announcement. "I am absolutely thrilled that our effective and constructive collaboration with Frankston Council and Frankston Basketball over a number of years and clear focus on how this Commonwealth investment will boost local jobs, improve community infrastructure and strengthen our community by tackling aspects of local disadvantage, has enabled the delivery of this outstanding result" Billson said.

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Frankston Basketball General Manager Nathan Jolly was enthusiastic about the result saying “this announcement guarantees that Stage 1 of the [Frankston basketball stadium expansion project](#) will commence which I know will come as a great relief to Frankston Basketball’s 13,000+ strong membership who are going to directly benefit from more courts being available, more often, so mid-week games no longer need to be scheduled at 10pm. As well as the additional court space, the facility will get a lift with improved & modernized conditions and start to evolve into a facility which is better suited to sustainably manage the increased demands being placed on it from all segments of our participation base.

A big thank you must go to Bruce Billson and his team for their continued support. Frankston Basketball is equally grateful to the support shown by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Warren Truss and Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Michael McCormack MP who not only endorsed the project’s scope, but also the economic & community outcomes the project will deliver for our region now and into the future” Jolly said.

Frankston City Mayor Mr James Dooley believes the announcement is underpinned by the working relationship that exists between all levels of government. “The success of the project to date has been based on equal partnership between the three levels of government (local, state & federal). With this announcement we are all winners and it demonstrates when we all work together as a team, great outcomes are achieved” Dooley said.

With \$12.4million currently committed to the project (Australian Federal Government \$4.95m; Frankston City \$4m; State Government of Victoria \$2.5m; Frankston Basketball \$1m), the focus for the project team now turns to securing further investment for the establishment of a High Performance area within the stadium’s expanded footprint as Frankston Basketball President Steve Ashley explains.

“Frankston Basketball is committed to its vision of being ‘the leader in community sports’ and with this announcement our association takes another step forward in achieving. Already the regional hub for basketball on the Mornington Peninsula, our association looks forward to not only driving sporting outcomes on-court but also off-court by delivering community programs for Frankston’s youth and disadvantaged.

Frankston Basketball has a proud history of producing elite players who have gone on to represent Australia as well hosting some of the World’s best teams and athletes in recent years. The inclusion of the planned High Performance Centre and the increased ability to host major events as part of Stage 1 works is fundamental to Frankston Basketball’s future success and we look forward to working with Frankston City to seeing this become a reality” Ashley said.

As part of Stage 1 works of Frankston Indoor Basketball Stadium’s expansion project an additional four (4) courts will be constructed at the current six (6) court facility which will include a show-court with a 2,000 seat capacity; additional administrative areas and program rooms; as well as resources to manage Frankston Basketball’s high performance programs.

End of Release

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