

Woden Valley Community Council Inc.

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Media Release

Football Park (Phillip Oval) to get a face lift

"Yes, a good news story" was how retiring Chair of Woden Valley Community Council, David Menzel, described the news that work was about to begin on stage one of the refurbishment of Football Park, also known as Phillip Oval.

Mr Menzel said "Our Council does have issues with the ACT government about this Northern Precinct of Woden Town Centre losing its Entertainment, Accommodation and Leisure status and becoming commercial and hence just an extension of Town Centre business and office development ... but our Council also gives credit where it believes credit is due. We do applaud and thank the government for retaining Phillip Oval in public ownership and for now getting on with the job of refurbishment".

Mr Menzel said "I understand that a contract was awarded, Fri 2 Nov, to Dale and Hitchcock, for the reconstruction of the playing surface, drainage and irrigation; for a turf cricket wicket; for 180 parking spaces on the eastern side of the oval; for a perimeter fence; and for upgraded landscape surrounds".

"After a long period of the community staring at either burnt-out stadiums or weed infested grounds, this is indeed good news", Mr Menzel said. "Construction should be completed in February 08", he said he had been advised

In relation to the temporary parking that currently exists on the western side of the oval Mr Menzel said "I understand the bulk of it will remain in use until the new parking area on the eastern side of the oval is completed. Some additional parking, even if only temporary, is very welcome in an extremely tight all-day parking situation."

Mr Menzel said, "the ability to get grass established and hardened off for the 2009 winter sports season depends, I am advised, on the rainfall over the next 3 or 4 months and the arrangement that authorities can enter into with ACTEW in regard to access to water."

"The Woden community regards Football Park as a major community asset and believes that its retention will achieve very significant community and business benefits as a major sporting complex in the heart of the Woden Town Centre. The community also looks very much forward to subsequent stages of the ovals development which include pavilions, seating and rooms" Mr Menzel added.

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Chair WVCC

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