



COMMUNITY SPORTS & RECREATION

Keeping healthy, active & happy

Our \$14.8 million plan for community sport and recreation.

Improving access to sport and recreation is an investment in healthy, happy kids and more connected communities for Canberra's families.

Investment in community sport is an investment in our communities. It's an investment in healthy, happy kids and in the future of Australia's healthcare system. With rates of childhood obesity skyrocketing in Australia, we need to encourage kids away from the TV and on to the sporting field or into nature.

Participation in sport also has the benefit of growing community connections for families and kids. Being active, making friends and sharing in community activities are important building blocks for well-being in all areas of life.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Provide an additional \$2 million over 4 years for essential upgrades to ageing sporting facilities;
- » Build a 'Tan Track' around Eddison Park in Woden;
- » Develop Strategic Plans for Equestrian and Mountain Biking;
- » Fund a dedicated trail bike facility for Pierces Creek;
- » Provide \$30,000 per annum in sporting fee and costs subsidies for low-income families;
- » Develop a climate adaptation plan for sports infrastructure and events;
- » Construct more Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports facilities;
- » Keep swimming in the city;
- » Create a Sports Events Bidding Fund;
- » provide new Women as Leaders in Sport Grants; and
- » Undertake a trial of Physical Literacy in schools

> Upgrading Sports Facilities

Participation in recreation and sporting activities delivers many health and wellbeing benefits right

across our community, however, many organisations, particularly smaller community based ones, are currently struggling to find adequate facilities, and storage space.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Provide \$2 million in a new capital upgrades program to target ageing facilities and basic amenities; and
- » Fund \$300,000 towards the creation of a Fitness Track around the already popular Eddison Park and cemetery precinct similar to the very popular Tan Track in Melbourne

> Supporting grassroots sports

The ACT is host to a fantastic natural environment and friendly people. This has seen Canberra become the place of choice for many large sporting competitions, such as the Mont 24 hour mountain bike race, the ever popular Kanga Cup, and many more. We want to continue to support this type of grassroots events to come to Canberra, and for us all to benefit from the quantified social and economic returns they bring. That is why the ACT Greens will:

- » Fund a 10 year strategic plan for Kanga Cup, and work with the local organisers to provide sustainable recurrent funding
- » Create a Sports Event Bidding Fund of \$250,000 to help local organisations to better attract large mass participation events.

> **Supporting a level playing field**

Active engagement in organised sport and recreation can be great for celebrating diversity, enhancing social inclusion and improving health and fitness. But there are many families in Canberra who cannot take advantage of these opportunities due to cost or access barriers for people with disability.

That is why The ACT Greens will:

- » Create a more “level playing field” by providing \$30,000 per year to an appropriate community service provider to assist people with disability and low income families to increase their participation in sport and recreational activities.

Funding will be available for membership fees, uniforms, equipment and travel to give everyone a chance to play!

> **Trail bike facility for Pierces Creek**

There has long been the need for a dedicated trail bike facility for the ACT, to encourage trail bike users away from sensitive environmental areas and to provide a home for this popular sport.

The ACT Greens continue their support for such a facility and will:

- » Fund up to \$600,000 in capital works to build a safe and challenging competitive course;
- » Work with local riders, environment stakeholders, and Parks and Conservation Services, to identify the best possible site; and
- » Provide initial recurrent support of \$20,000 to the local riders association for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility over the first 4 years of operation.

> **Swimming in the city**

The Canberra Olympic Pool in Civic is a much-loved but sorely ageing facility that needs replacing. The ACT Greens want to ensure that there is a recreational swimming pool in the city area to meet the needs of the city workforce as well as the increasing number of city residents.

To ensure that this happens, the ACT Greens will:

- » Immediately begin work to either replace the Canberra Olympic Pool on site or identify an alternative location in the Civic area; and
- » Ensure that an Olympic diving tower is included either the new City pool, or investigate further the feasibility of including it at the new Stromlo Pool.

> **More indoor sports facilities**

In 2015, a comprehensive study into the current and future needs of indoor sports in Canberra was presented to government. Planned facilities such as the indoor cricket centre at Gold Creek will help meet some demand but ultimately demand from population growth in Molonglo, West Belconnen and Gungahlin cannot be met with existing facilities.

The report clearly indicated that the Government must start planning now for a range of new facilities, particularly in Gungahlin, and for growth sports such as futsal. To ensure we are not left playing catch up later, the ACT Greens will develop a future pipeline of key capital works, funding for feasibility and design studies for the top priorities in 2017, and commit to funding the feasibility, design and construction in the next term for:

- » Multi courts facility for the Woden region, to replace the loss of the Southern Cross and CIT facilities;
- » Multi courts facility for the Gungahlin region, to respond to growing population pressures;
- » Seek expressions of interest from the private sector and commercial developers for the construction of an

ice rink, with government in kind contribution of land or other support.

> **Planning for the future**

Our city is growing, and so is our population, and there are increasing pressures on our recreational space. The ACT Greens want to ensure that Canberra have access to a diversity of recreational activities as Canberra matures. Local sporting and recreational groups need assistance to respond to the future challenges of funding, access to land and facilities, and changing trends in participation. The Greens believe that, with the right support, Canberra can become a sporting and recreation travel destination of choice. To support the development of sport in the ACT, the ACT Greens will:

- » Create a permanent position of “Recreation Co-ordinator” to work across the government agencies to coordinate issues of land use, environmental protection, and sport and recreation user groups’ accommodation/facility needs;
- » Hold a recreation summit in early 2017 to work with local recreation organisations to hear what they need from government over the next 5 to 10 years; and
- » Undertake strategic master plans for Mountain Biking and Equestrian in 2017.

> **Women in Sport**

The ACT Greens know that women's sports are often undervalued, and female sports players are faced with an uphill battle to receive the recognition they, and their sports, deserve.

On average, female players are paid less, receive limited media coverage, and are underrepresented on sporting clubs executive committees and boards.

That is why the ACT Greens will:

- » Provide \$400,000 in new grants over 4 years to support women in sport.

This will be based on the existing successful Australian Government initiative that is managed by the Australian Sports Commission in partnership with the Office for Women. Each year, in alignment with the Commonwealth program, we will provide \$100,000 in women in sport grants under the following categories:

1. Individual Development Grants,
2. Organisation Leadership Development Grants, and
3. Targeted Leadership Development Program.

> **Physical literacy in schools**

Classroom teachers are often under equipped to deliver the quantity and quality of physical education and sport required for the development of sufficient physical literacy, or to the standard expected by the National Physical Education curriculum.

There is compelling evidence that improved understanding of physical literacy could improve the effectiveness of school based PE and sport in preventative medicine, psychological well-being and academic results in the ACT.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Fund a trial of a Physical Literacy Facilitator to a group of 8 schools within a designated ACT district. The Facilitator's role would be to link the school with community and government services, sporting clubs (in liaison with PE Pulse) and conduct in-class PE professional development for classroom teachers.

This position would be held by a primary school teacher with specialist training and experience in physical education. They will have no fixed class responsibilities, and will work with the group of 8 schools.

