

**THE HON JENNY MACKLIN MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR FAMILIES & PAYMENTS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DISABILITY REFORM
MEMBER FOR JAGAJAGA**

LABOR WILL UPGRADE FACILITIES AT ELTHAM NORTH RESERVE

Labor Member for Jagajaga, Jenny Macklin today announced that a Shorten Labor Government will commit \$500,000 towards an upgrade of facilities at Eltham North Reserve.

The upgrade will see the creation of two separate pavilions to accommodate the growing needs of the Eltham North Redbacks Soccer Club, the Wanderers Cricket Club and the 1st Eltham North Scouts Group.

The current Redbacks' pavilion will be redeveloped and will see the existing clubrooms rebuilt, girls' change rooms added and the social area facilities expanded.

This will also include an upgrade to the rear community hall that is shared with the 1st Eltham North Scouts Group.

A second pavilion will be constructed to accommodate the Eltham Wanderers Cricket Club and will also be available for general community use by groups such as the Nillumbik U3A.

"There is growing demand on this facility," Ms Macklin said.

"Soccer is an enormous growth sport across our region with terrific take-up by girls and women as well, however this remains the only purpose built soccer facility in the entire Shire of Nillumbik,"

"As a result, the Eltham Redbacks Soccer Club has fast become the largest sporting club in Nillumbik using council facilities,"

"The club has doubled its number of junior players to eight hundred in just four years and now has over nine hundred players in total,"

"Their membership base, including children and parents, is now in excess of 1,700,"

"Female participation has also grown enormously at this club,"

"The redevelopment is absolutely critical to keep up with this demand,"

“The club communities here have done an outstanding job raising the money, and it is great to be able to further support their efforts.” Ms Macklin said.

The \$500,000 from Federal Labor will be matched by \$250,000 each from the Redbacks and Wanderers club communities, \$2 million from the Victorian Labor Government and \$800,000 from the Nillumbik Shire Council.

DATE: SUNDAY, 12 JUNE 2016