



The Hon Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill
Minister for Multiculturalism and
Minister for Disability Services

MEDIA RELEASE

SECOND LARGEST BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION IN NSW GETS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Construction is well on its way for the expanding Hills Basketball Stadium which will become the crown jewel of sports facilities in the Castle Hill area.

With over 3,900 registered players, The Hills Basketball Association has become the second largest Basketball association in NSW. The existing facility hosts over 8,000 visitors each week, including 450 local competition teams, 27 Representative teams and the 700 registered for weekly Hornets Academy skills sessions.

The Association has outgrown the current stadium venue at Fred Caterson Reserve, and the extension will enable the Association and the Hills Hornets club to meet the demands of the thousands who participate in the sport.

“The growth of this sport in Castle Hill has been nothing short of astounding” said Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams. “Thousands of our local residents utilise this venue every week. As a Government, we need to ensure that there are venues that the whole community can enjoy, and help provide the modern sporting facility they deserve”.

The expansion will increase the number of full-size courts to 6, which will equal that of Penrith which currently has the largest basketball facility in NSW.

There will be a 500 seat grandstand on the new show-court, a refurbished entrance, expanded foyer and canteen, purpose-built first aid room, new outdoor area and store rooms, a new room for referees and academy coaches; as well as a new training and function room.

Mr Steve Burke, General Manager of The Hills Basketball Association said “Everyone at Hills Basketball is beyond excited as our new courts are about to come on line. This is a project literally years in the planning and one that’s sorely needed given our waiting lists for competitions and development programs.”

The Hills Basketball Association are trailblazers in the sport, and have made a huge impact in the local community, and beyond. They conduct a wide range of innovative training programs, various camps, extensive school programs, and for people with a disability. They also developed the pioneering “I Am A Girl” campaign, which encourages females not only to play basketball but to take on leadership roles within the sport. This campaign was recently adopted by Basketball NSW.



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Mr Williams stated “Sport delivers many personal and community benefits including developing self-esteem, maintaining health and fitness, nurturing talented athletes and contributing to individual enjoyment of life.”

The \$4.3m project was boosted by a \$100,000 NSW Government Community Building Partnership grant, and a further \$8,000 was recently received from the Local Sports Grant Program for new scoreboards.

“We appreciate the support of our local State member” said Mr Burke. “We certainly believe that in supporting Hills Basketball, the NSW Government is supporting a vibrant part of the local community.”

The project is due for completion around August this year, with an official opening date soon to be announced.

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