

Over \$18,000 for sport and recreation disaster assistance in Ipswich

The Bligh Government today announced the West End Rugby League Football Club would receive \$18,720 to repair the playing surface and replace the water pump at Basin Pocket which were damaged following widespread flooding in south-east Queensland in May this year.

State Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the funding was provided under the Sport and Recreation Disaster Assistance Program.

"After the storms battered the south-east in May, the Queensland Government quarantined funding of up to \$1 million to support affected clubs and organisations in South East Queensland under this program," Ms Nolan said.

"Grants of up to \$5,000 were issued for replacement of operational items, while grants up to \$20,000 were made available to assist with capital works projects to repair sport and recreation infrastructure, damaged as a result of the storms.

"This funding will be a great boost for the West End Rugby League Football Club," she said.

Minister for Sport Phil Reeves said it is important that the Government helps get sport and recreation equipment and facilities operating as quickly as possible following natural disasters, so people can get back out playing sport and getting active.

"Sport is an integral part in the lives of many Queenslanders and continuing to be able to participate in sport and recreation activities, is a welcome distraction for those who have suffered so much as a result of natural disasters," Mr Reeves said.

"This vital funding will assist clubs to offset costs associated with repairing or replacing damaged assets.

"Clubs have until Friday 17 July 2009 to apply for assistance under the program, with approved funds being provided up front so restoration work can begin as soon as possible.

"The Bligh Government also recognises that access to quality, safe sport and recreation facilities and services is essential if Queenslanders are to lead active, healthy lifestyles," he said.

Mr Reeves said the Queensland Government's *Toward Q2* vision for the future encourages people of all ages and abilities to become involved in sport and recreation.

"We aim to make Queenslanders Australia's healthiest people," Mr Reeves said.

“We’re already leading the charge with our highly successful ‘*Find Your 30*’ campaign, encouraging Queenslanders to find just 30 minutes of physical activity each day, and to make healthier food choices.

Mr Reeves said the Queensland Government provided more funding for sport and recreation services than any other State or Territory in Australia.

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