... from the Mayor

I was lucky enough to meet with a great range of sporting clubs last month, when I hosted the mayoral sports clubs breakfast event at Chirnsides By The River. During that event it was made truly apparent that when we look at Wyndham’s rapid population boom, that the numbers of sporting clubs are also skyrocketing, which places huge demands on the current sporting infrastructure. When we compare the numbers across four particular sporting codes between 2013 and 2019 (Cricket, Soccer, Women’s AFL and Netball), we see huge increases in participation from 314 teams in 2014 to over 640 teams in 2019.

The Wyndham Sports Strategy highlights that by 2045, it is anticipated that Wyndham will require double the amount of cricket ovals and triple the amount of soccer pitches, that we currently have, along with significant growth requirements across all other sporting codes and recreational activities. The estimated investment by council for this level of sporting infrastructure growth between now and 2045 is predicted to be over $400 million.

Wyndham will build an additional four indoor recreational facilities over the coming years, and will continue to ask for support from both state and federal governments to assist in funding these necessary facilities into the future, once land is handed over to council.

This volume and growth in sports participation is fantastic, in terms of community health, wellbeing and community life, and makes for a very strong case for ongoing advocacy to the state and federal government for increased sporting infrastructure across the municipality. As the Family Friendly City portfolio holder, I’m really passionate about how we grow and sustain strong community connections, and sports clubs play such a pivotal role in doing this and that is why investment in this sports infrastructure will continue to be advocated for into the future.

For more information about Wyndham’s Sports Strategy and the growth needs of sport and recreational facilities, head to council’s website https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/sports-strategy-2045

Regards, Mia Shaw.