

Media Release

The Hon Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Industrial Relations



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

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DELIVERING BETTER FACILITIES FOR THE DAUGHTERS OF THE WEST

The Western Bulldogs AFLW team is a step closer to getting the elite facilities they deserve with work underway on the Andrews Labor Government's \$5 million upgrade of facilities at Whitten Oval

Treasurer Tim Pallas joined Western Bulldogs premiership star Libby Birch at the Kennel today to inspect the works, which will deliver new change rooms and a new scoreboard for the Western Bulldogs' AFLW team.

The works are part of the Labor Government's massive \$67 million commitment to professional women's sport.

Women's football has seen unprecedented growth in the last two years – especially in Victoria where registrations have jumped from 16,481 in 2017 to 23,811 in 2018 thanks in large part to stars such as Libby Birch, who are inspiring young girls across Victoria to play sport and be active.

The funding will deliver benchmark AFLW changerooms and a new video scoreboard to Whitten Oval, making the home of the 2018 AFLW Premiers one of the best AFLW venues in the league.

The enormous suite of community programs delivered by the Western Bulldogs deliver, such as Daughters of the West program, will also benefit from the new facilities.

The upgrades are part of the Labor Government's \$100 million investment in female sport and recreation from the grassroots all the way through to the elite.

This includes professional women's sport projects at Ikon Park, Moorabbin Oval, Casey Fields, Victoria Park, Footscray Park and Broadmeadows as well as \$29 million worth of community projects funded by the Labor Government's *Female Friendly Facilities Fund*.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tim Pallas

"AFLW will be bigger and better than ever in 2019 – that's why we're investing in the facilities that our elite female athletes need as the league continues to go."

"Investing in AFLW means stars like Libby Birch will continue to emerge and inspire more girls from all over Victoria to take up footy."

Quotes attributable to Member for Footscray Katie Hall

"The Bulldogs are great supporters of our community and these facilities will not only benefit the players but locals and fans as well."

"With better changerooms and a new scoreboard, Whitten Oval will cement its place as one of Victoria's best places to watch a game of footy."