

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Big win for little community**

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A long-term community campaign to upgrade two netball courts in Eskdale has been successful, with the State Government announcing a \$100,000 grant from the *Country Football and Netball Program* to help Towong Shire Council complete the project.

The funding announcement caps off a five-year push led by the Mitta United Football Netball Club which had raised more than \$35,000 towards the upgrade, and secured a further \$10,000 of in-kind support. Towong Shire Council will contribute \$10,000 to the new courts.

The project will deliver a new asphalt and acrylic court compliant with Netball Victoria standards. The second court will be concrete, allowing teams to practice and warm up. It will also feature tennis court markings for additional versatility. New paths will be constructed connecting the courts to the main clubrooms.

Towong Shire Council Mayor Cr David Wortmann praised the club and community for their ongoing commitment to the project.

"To think that such a small community can raise \$45,000 in cash and in-kind support is phenomenal," he said. "This funding has been hard earned and the people of this community deserve it.

"Sport is the lifeblood of many rural communities and this announcement is a huge boost for Eskdale. The club will be able to accommodate a new junior team as well as hosting competition matches to Netball Victoria standards.

"The courts will give locals new sporting opportunities and help build a thriving and inclusive club.

"People in small communities are at risk of isolation so projects like these play an important role in giving everyone opportunities to participate in sporting and community life.

"We are very grateful to Sport and Recreation Victoria and the State Government for recognising the merits of this project and its importance to Eskdale."

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