



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Around the grounds

**5 February 2016**

Buloke Shire Council is working together with AFL Central Victoria (AFL CV) and other Local Government Authorities and sporting bodies on a region wide strategy to better understand the current state of each football club's facilities. The ultimate goal is to form a strategic plan for these facilities into the future.

Discussions began back in July of 2015 with AFL CV. This was followed by Regional General Manager Paul Hamilton presenting to Council in August. It was proposed Council contribute to help fund a facility audit for each ground. During these facility audits each club will have their facility rated out of 100. The wide ranging audits will consider ; main pavilion, change rooms, lighting, playing surface, drainage, cricket pitch, watering systems, fencing and netball amenities. Also the audits will help define roles for each facility with an attached rating:

- Local – suitable for Home and Away fixtures
- Regional – suitable for Home and Away, Finals, Grand Finals and Representative fixtures
- State – suitable to host AFL "NAB Challenge" fixtures.

These ratings will help assist future direction of investment decisions and define guidelines and priorities for further improvements.

These audits will work in cooperation with recently conducted "Club Health Checks" which evaluated club finances, governance, junior pathways, strategy, coaching, community connection as well as values and culture giving a comprehensive view of each clubs overall situation. The audits are scheduled for completion by March of this year and will be undertaken by project consultant insideEDGE Sport and Leisure Planning.

As a part of the Regional Strategy and auditing process Netball facilities are also being reviewed. Hockey Facilities, which are so pivotal to the success of the North Central Football League are not a direct consideration of the strategy, however the North Central Hockey Association will be involved in consultation.

Each of Buloke's clubs sit under the AFL CV banner with the exception of Nullawil Football Netball Club which plays in the Golden Rivers Football League and therefore is within the AFL Central Murray region. However, Council has requested Nullawil be included in the Regional Strategy.

"At the recent Community Forum Summit in October investment in recreational facilities was highlighted as a priority. Each of Council's facilities requires work of varying priority to bring it to the desired standard. Council looks forward to working with AFL Central Victoria as well as the other concerned Councils and sporting bodies now and into the future to ensure the growth and success of our sporting clubs which are central to our Shire's way of life", said Mayor, Cr Reid Mather.



The Regional Strategy is scheduled for completion in December of this year.

**End release**

**For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520**