## Media release



For immediate release Wednesday, 31 July 2024

## Work begins on \$15m sports centre in Sydney's west

Construction is underway on a \$15 million Blacktown Disability Sports Centre that will provide new opportunities for exercise and physical activity.

Blacktown City Council and Disability Sports Australia are working together to deliver the indoor training facility at Blacktown International Sports Park, fully funded by the NSW Government's Office of Sort.

Visitors will have access to two multipurpose courts, which will be used for a variety of sports and activities.

One of the advantages of the centre will be support for balancing training with work, family and study commitments. This will be provided by customised amenities and fully accessible change rooms.

Visitors can complement their training by using the gymnasium, aquatic recovery pool and accessible accommodation at the adjacent Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology Hub (BEST).

School and community groups are among those expected to use the centre.

Blacktown City Mayor Brad Bunting said the facility would attract people from across Sydney.

"The Blacktown Disability Sports Centre will give people of all abilities opportunities to use state of the art sports facilities," he said.

"Blacktown International Sports Park is the premier venue of its kind in Western Sydney and Council is intent on keeping it that way."

Disability Sports Australia CEO Ayden Shaw was also looking forward to the centre.

"This Blacktown Disability Sports Centre represents a significant step forward in addressing the participation discrepancy gap for people with disabilities who want to be active".

"By providing state-of-the-art facilities and tailored support, we are creating an inclusive environment where everyone can pursue their sporting ambitions."

"We are thrilled to see this purpose-built facility come to life and commend Blacktown City Council on its outstanding work to date. This centre will enhance the physical well-being of individuals and create a sense of community and belonging."

The centre will be able to accommodate:

8 x seated badminton courts 2 x wheelchair basketball courts

8 x boccia courts 3 x volleyball courts

16 wheelchair fencing courts 3 x seated volleyball courts

1 wheelchair rugby training court 2 x goalball courts

The centre is due to be completed in mid-2025.

It will complement the nearby Blacktown Exercise Sports and Technology Hub, which provides state of the art facilities for training, sports medicine, rehabilitation, research and education, as well as accommodation, a café and play space.

The Australian Catholic University, Sydney West Sports Medicine, AFL NSW and WentWest partnered in the design of the hub and are benefiting from its services.

The Blacktown Disability Sports Centre is the latest project in Council's fine record of serving its sporting community.

In June, Blacktown City was named Council of the Year at the Sport NSW Community Sports Awards for its outstanding service.

This was the third time in the past four years Council has received the honour.

## **ENDS**

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