

MEDIA RELEASE



NABAWA RECREATION CENTRE UPDATE

The Shire of Chapman Valley is calling for additional State and Federal government funding to complete the critical upgrades to the Nabawa Recreation Centre. While significant progress has been made in securing funding, rising costs threaten to derail this vital community project.

The Nabawa Recreation Centre upgrade is a \$5.5 million project aimed at delivering essential community & emergency infrastructure. This facility will:

- Increase sporting participation, especially for women
- Build social capital and expand regional capacity
- Enhance disaster response & capabilities
- Enhance the Shires capacity to grow regional events ie. Backroads cycle & running event, Yellowfields concert

Current Funding Status

- Total project budget: \$5,500,000
- Secured funding: \$3,000,000 from Local, State & Federal Governments
- Additional funding required: \$2,500,000

Challenges and Cost Increases

Several factors have contributed to a significant increase in project costs:

- Rising building costs and cost of living pressures (up to 40% increase)
- Design improvements to meet disability & community access requirements

Project Benefits

- Community Hub: A fit-for-purpose, accessible recreation centre supporting social, economic, and health needs
- Disaster Preparedness: Improved capacity for emergency response and evacuation
- Sporting Facilities: Dedicated men's and women's changerooms, addressing the growth in women's sports
- Accessibility: Essential disability access and facilities
- Secures the ability to grow and attract key regional events in the Midwest

Urgent Call for Additional Funding

"The Nabawa Recreation Centre project is at a critical juncture," says Chapman Valley CEO Jamie Criddle. "Without additional funding, we risk losing this opportunity to create a benefit to our community's resilience, health, and social wellbeing."

Acting Shire President Nicole Batten adds, "This project is not just about sports; it's about building a stronger, more connected Chapman Valley. We also have a significant opportunity to provide a venue that secures our ability to grow larger regional events such as the Backroads Gravel Bike Race. Our door is open for State and Federal partners to discuss funding opportunities and recognise the vital importance of this facility and help us bridge the funding gap."

The Shire of Chapman Valley is committed to delivering this project and calls on State and Federal governments to provide the additional \$2.5 million needed to ensure its completion.

-Ends- 5 March 2025

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