

Construction commences on Wagga Wagga's new regional tennis hub

A commemorative sod-turning has signified the start of construction for Wagga Wagga's new regional tennis hub – the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre – and commencement of stage one of re-development for the Bolton Park Sports Hub.

The event on Monday afternoon was attended by representatives from Wagga Wagga City Council, Tennis NSW, Wagga Wagga Tennis Association and representatives of the local First Nations, sporting and broader communities.

Special guests included Australian tennis legend Mr Wally Masur, and CEO of Tennis NSW Mr Darren Simpson.

The project involves construction of a new facility that will include eight International Tennis Federation (ITF) championship hard courts, two warm-up courts, five community courts, two multi-purpose netball courts and new clubrooms.

Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Dallas Tout spoke of the benefits the new centre will bring to the region.

“The Jim Elphick Tennis Centre will not only enhance Wagga Wagga's standing as a top-tier athletic centre – capable of drawing tourists, competitors, and officials from around the country – but will also provide our community with outstanding facilities that promote local health and wellbeing and cultivate young athletes at the grassroots level, across multiple sports,” Cr Tout said.

“This project could not have been realised without the support and grant funding received from the NSW Government's Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund, and our partners at Tennis NSW.”

Minister for Sport, Steve Kamper said “The Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund provides inclusive and accessible facilities to enable more people to play sport, regardless of age, gender or ability.

“The Fund has invested \$200 million in 77 projects that will enable more people to play sport and be active across NSW.

“The turning of the first sod is an important milestone in the construction of the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre and stage one of development of the Bolton Park Sports Hub.”

CEO of Tennis NSW Mr Darren Simpson remarked that he is excited to see an international standard facility being constructed in Wagga Wagga.

“It’s a very special day for Tennis and for the Wagga Wagga community, as we mark the start of this major project,” Mr Simpson said.

“The Jim Elphick Tennis Centre will be one of the few venues within NSW capable of hosting ITF-level events and will provide young talent the opportunity to develop their skills on a grand slam surface.

“Upgrades such as these provide more opportunities for our regional players and support the efforts in making our sport more accessible for players of all abilities.”

Redevelopment of the centre is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

The project is funded through a NSW Government Multi-Sport Community Facility Fund grant of \$5 million, a contribution of \$1.25 million from Tennis NSW through the ATP Cup Legacy Fund, and \$2.9 million from Wagga Wagga City Council.

For more information about the project visit haveyoursay.wagga.nsw.gov.au/bolton-park-sports-hub

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

What: Sod-turn commemorating the start of the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre redevelopment

Who: Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Dallas Tout; CEO of Tennis NSW Mr Darren Simpson; President of the Wagga Wagga Tennis Association, Mr Michael Marien; and Australian tennis legend, Mr Wally Masur.

When: Monday 11 March, 12pm

Where: Bolton Park, 50 Edward St, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650

SPECIAL GUEST INFORMATION

Mr Wally Masur

Wally Masur, a former Grand Slam champion from Australia, reached a career-high ranking of world No. 15 during his time on the tour. Highlights of his career include reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open in 1987 and at the US Open in 1993.

Masur has now transitioned into a respected tennis commentator, providing insightful analysis and commentary for tennis matches around the world.

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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