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NSW GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO QUALITY SPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has affirmed its commitment to investing in sport and recreation facilities, services and grants in the 2011-12 Budget.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said the NSW Government is committed to boosting rates of community participation and investing in vital infrastructure.

“It’s my firm belief that investing in sport and recreation creates the opportunity to establish healthier communities throughout NSW and address many of the current issues confronting society,” Mr Annesley said.

Funding commitments for 2011-12 will see some **\$45 million invested in infrastructure and sports facilities** that include netball, hockey, cricket and the main arena at Sydney Showground.

“In addition, numerous sporting organisations will share in almost **\$17 million of NSW Government grants** this year,” Mr Annesley said.

“State sporting associations, peak bodies and other organisations will receive essential operational funding and project-based grants.

“The NSW Government is committed to investing in sport and recreational facilities with a focus on increasing junior participation, as well as adults and seniors as our population ages.

“Participation at an early stage helps establish lifelong healthier habits, and many of our initiatives are specifically aimed at providing opportunities for children and young people across the state.

“At the other end of the scale we need to ensure people stay active for as long as possible to reduce the burden in other areas such as health and ageing services.

“The NSW Government will be working very closely with our regional venues to identify opportunities for positive financial returns on taxpayer investments to ensure the people of NSW are getting the best value from our sporting infrastructure investments.

“A NSW Stadium Strategy will also be developed to guide future government investment. The aim will be to deliver improved community access, cater for multi-purpose usage, offer improved facilities for participants and spectators, and improve the competitive position of NSW when bidding for events,” Mr Annesley said.