

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Heritage
Minister for Sport



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27th August

Ms Helen Burnet MP
Member for Clark
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 13 August 2026 on behalf of your constituent Victoria from South Hobart in relation to participation and funding for football in Tasmania. I welcome the opportunity to provide information about the government's investment in sport across Tasmania.

Football Tasmania refers to football as the State's largest participation sport based on AusPlay data. However, I understand AusPlay measures anyone who has participated in an activity at least once in the previous 12 months, including many people who may not be involved in organised competition or receive services from a sporting organisation. Different sports also count participation in different ways, with some including activities such as school clinics and introductory programs.

I am advised a more accurate reflection of the number of people regularly engaged in organised sport is often sporting organisation membership. While football is among Tasmania's top five sports by membership, I am aware it is not the largest by that measure.

Over the past five years, the Tasmanian Government has invested more than \$15.5 million in infrastructure projects that benefit outdoor football. This represents approximately 5.6 per cent of all State Government investment in community sport facilities during that period. It is also important to note that a significant proportion of overall sports infrastructure investment has been directed towards multi-sport indoor facilities, many of which provide opportunities for futsal participation.

The Government recognises the growing demand for football facilities, particularly in Greater Hobart. That is why we have committed \$350,000 for Football Tasmania to progress the business case for the proposed Home of Football development, which is identified as a key priority in Football Tasmania's Strategic Plan 2024-2028. The proposal includes six full-size pitches, comprising both synthetic and natural turf fields, additional small-sided fields, modern changerooms, and training and administration facilities.

I understand Football Tasmania is working with Clarence City Council on this proposal, with a master planning process for Wentworth Park to be completed before any decision is made regarding its suitability as the Home of Football.

More broadly, addressing capacity constraints is a responsibility shared between sporting organisations, councils and government. Local councils are best placed to determine infrastructure priorities within their municipalities and frequently seek State Government support to deliver those projects. Football Tasmania's Strategic Plan includes the development of a priority list of club facility and infrastructure projects, which will help guide future investment decisions.

In addition, the forthcoming Greater Hobart Sport Infrastructure Plan will provide important evidence to help identify capacity challenges and prioritise projects across the region, including within the Clark electorate.

The Government is certainly open to working with councils, Football Tasmania and other stakeholders to increase the capacity of existing facilities where appropriate. Projects such as sports lighting upgrades, field improvements and all-weather infrastructure are already eligible for support through the Tasmanian Active Infrastructure Grants Program, which provides a pathway for councils and clubs to seek assistance for projects that improve access, capacity and participation opportunities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', followed by a long horizontal line.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Sport