

Geoff Lee

Acting Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 3 October 2019

REGIONAL NSW SCORES BIG FROM T20 LEGACY FUND

The spectacle of Big Bash cricket is coming to regional NSW for the first time, thanks to funding from the NSW Government's T20 World Cup Legacy Fund.

Acting Minister for Sport Geoff Lee said \$100,000 from the NSW Government will help Coffs Harbour City Council and the Sydney Sixers stage their BBL match against the Adelaide Strikers in January 2020.

"Cricket fans will be watching some of the biggest names in world cricket blasting boundaries, at the recently upgraded C.ex Coffs International Stadium," Mr Lee said.

"The NSW Government wants to make sure the legacy from the T20 Men's and Women's World Cups lasts long after hosting 14 matches in Sydney."

The contribution is part of the second round of the NSW ICC T20 World Cup 2020 Legacy Fund, with 78 cricket clubs and councils to receive more than \$2 million in grants for projects that will improve facilities, increase female participation and ensure regional NSW can host major cricket events.

Member for Coffs Harbour Gurmesh Singh said this is a big coup for Coffs Harbour.

"It's going to be terrific to see Coffs Harbour's kids on the boundary cheering on their Big Bash heroes, with the dream of following in their footsteps one day," Mr Singh said.

Sydney Sixers General Manager Jodie Hawkins said the club can't wait to bring all the fun of the Big Bash to the Coffs Coast this summer.

"We have been working towards this fixture for some time in partnership with Coffs Harbour City Council and are very thankful to the NSW Government for their support," Ms Hawkins said.

ICC T20 World Cup 2020 Chief Executive Officer Nick Hockley said the Legacy Fund will help local cricket communities long after the tournament.

"We congratulate the successful Round 2 applicants and look forward to an exciting summer of cricket culminating with the Women's T20 World Cup," Mr Hockley said.

133 projects have received more than \$4 million in grants from the first two rounds of the Legacy Fund. For more information visit: <u>www.sport.nsw.gov.au/grants</u>.

MEDIA: Nick Marshall-McCormack | 0448 725 289