

MEDIA RELEASE

DALE WAKEFIELD

MEMBER FOR BRAITLING

Dale Wakefield, Member for Braitling

Imparja Cup and National Indigenous Cricket Championships secured until 2021

16 February 2018

Member for Braitling, Dale Wakefield welcomed the extension of the partnership through to 2021, acknowledging the considerable contribution the Imparja Cup and the complementary National Indigenous Cricket Championships added to the Alice Springs and wider cricketering community.

"I'm thrilled that we are able to continue our partnership with Cricket Australia and Northern Territory Cricket in securing the Imparja Cup and the National Indigenous Cricket Championships in Alice Springs until 2021," Ms Wakefield said.

"This partnership ensures these events will continue to be held in Alice Springs, showcasing the wealth of Indigenous talent that cricket has to offer."

The Territory Labor Government has invested an additional \$300,000 to this new three year partnership. This contribution is part of a wider \$2.5 million investment in to infrastructure used by cricket in the Red Centre, encompassing \$600,000 to upgrade lighting at Albrecht Oval ahead of the 2019 National Indigenous Cricket Championships, and \$2 million to upgrade infrastructure at Albrecht and Jim McConville Ovals.

"Our investment in sporting infrastructure in Alice Springs helps attract and retain these events that bring together more than 600 indigenous cricketers from around the NT and Australia, generating a considerable injection to the economy during a traditionally quieter period," said Ms Wakefield

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cricket Advisory Council (NATSICAC) Co-Chair Justin Mohamed said that having the National Indigenous Cricket Championships and Imparja Cup in Alice Springs for a further three years is a great step forward for cricket in Alice Springs and for Indigenous cricket.

"The support of the Northern Territory Government has been critical in ensuring the ongoing success of the championships and we are thrilled to have this event locked in for Alice Springs until 2021," Mr Mohamed said.

"The Imparja Cup has a proud history dating back to 1994, but we have a great story to tell about cricket in Alice Springs and the NT in the present, and what cricket in Indigenous communities means to us.

"This support continues a successful partnership between Cricket Australia and NT Cricket with the Northern Territory Government and the Alice Springs Town Council, and builds on the many outstanding cricket events held in Alice Springs in recent years, including the highly successful BBL and WBBL matches played last month between the Perth Scorchers and BBL|07 champions Adelaide Strikers."

NT Cricket Director and NT Indigenous Cricket Advisory Council Chair Kim Hill also welcomed the agreement.

“It is fantastic to see the cultural connection with Cricket started more than 20 years ago through custodians Shane Franey and Rossy Williams continue for another three years with the announcement that the NICC will continue to take place alongside the Imparja Cup.”

The Imparja Cup and National Indigenous Cricket Championships continue a big Central Australian Summer of Cricket, after Traeger Park played host last month to a weekend of Big Bash League and Women’s Big Bash League matches.

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