

Replacement Sports Surfaces - Cuballing

To resurface four existing hard courts with synthetic grass and construct one new multi-purpose hard court at Cuballing.

Project Background

Cuballing is situated 192km south-east of Perth and is 14km from the regional centre of Narrogin. The district includes the townships of Cuballing, Popanyinning and Yornaning (district population 890). Cuballing is a small community with limited recreation and community infrastructure available. Tennis, netball, cricket and golf are the major sports played in the town.

The existing four hardcourts had been laid 20 years ago and were used by the local tennis and netball clubs. An asset condition assessment undertaken by the Shire of Cuballing identified that cracking to the court surface required treatment to reduce the potential risk to participants.

Approach/Process

Hard court and synthetic grass surfaces were investigated and an inspection was undertaken of synthetic surfaces. Hard courts, due to the scope of foundation rectification works required, were found to be the most expensive option examined. Synthetic grass was chosen being a more viable option. As district level netball regulations do not allow fixtured matches to be played on synthetic grass, one new multi-marked hard court was also constructed. The project management was undertaken by the Shire. The community contributed voluntary labour including earthworks and fencing. CSRFF funding was approved for three tennis courts and one basketball/netball court.

Project Partners

- . Shire of Cuballing
- . Lotterywest
- . Department of Sport and Recreation
- . Cuballing Netball Club
- . Cuballing Tennis Club

Strengths

- . New hard court has been line marked for tennis, will act as an overflow court and has been integrated into recreation reserve, allowing for multi-purpose usage of changeroom facilities.
- . Level of risk to the facility managers (the Shire) has been reduced.
- . Netball teams can train locally.
- . Development of a recreation precinct incorporating BMX, tennis, football and netball

Challenges

- . Evidence of puff balls (fungus) has been identified near the fenceline, which has been treated with fungicide, but will require regular monitoring.
- . A geofabric was laid under the hotmix surface of the new hardcourt to reduce potential risks that may arise from the high clay base that forms the foundation.

Further Opportunities

- . Development of a secure playground area for children.
- . Potential for regular fixtured 'home' matches to be played in Cuballing.
- . Potential to attract more senior tennis players to the club with a synthetic surface providing a softer surface to play on.

Budget Implications

- . Original project cost estimate was \$100,000 (exclusive of GST). Total project cost was \$98,208 (exclusive of GST) which was within budget.

Sustainability Principles

- . Seven year warranty on synthetic grass surface.

case study

Key Lessons

- . The project has provided a safer and more competitive playing surface in line with increasing community expectation of higher standards of infrastructure and service delivery.
- . The Shire, as facility managers, will need to budget for resurfacing of the synthetic surfaces (asset replacement), generally a seven to ten year period, as part of the ongoing operation of the facility.
- . Asset management planning must ensure maintenance is scheduled and appropriately funded, to maximise performance and lifespan of the synthetic court surfaces.

Who to contact for further information

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