

# **Senator Catryna Bilyk**

## **Kingborough Chronicle "Comment Column"**

### **Twin Ovals a source of pride for Kingborough**

The upcoming official opening of the Kingston Twin Ovals signals the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the development of sports facilities in Kingston.

It adds to the expanded Kingborough Sports Centre and Kingston Tennis Club to form a wider sports precinct, complemented by the recently developed Kingston High School.

The co-location of Kingston High School with the sports precinct was a wise decision by the Tasmanian Government. It negated the need for the School to develop their own sporting facilities because they already have access to some of the best sports facilities that Tasmania can offer.

These developments were made possible because of funding commitments by the Kingborough Council, and the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. Taken together, they are a fantastic showcase of what can be achieved when all three levels of government plan ahead and work together.

A major component of that funding was the \$4 million for the Twin Ovals project provided through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP).

A component of the Australian Government's Economic Stimulus Plan, the RLCIP has made more than \$1 billion available to local government authorities to build and modernise community infrastructure.

The RLCIP has also provided an economic stimulus to local communities by supporting construction jobs throughout Australia.

The economic stimulus provided by the Twin Ovals will not just end with their construction. The quality of the new grounds will allow Kingborough to host new cricket and football matches, attracting more visitors to the region and providing a boost to local businesses.

Last year, AFL Tasmania general manager Scott Wade said that from 2012, Kingborough would host any pre-season AFL activity in southern Tasmania.

The challenge for the competing ovals, KGV Oval at Glenorchy and Bellerive Oval, is that in the summer they both host grade cricket and Bellerive hosts cricket at all levels. One of the ovals in Kingston, however, is purpose built for Australian Rules football.

Having a top class facility gives the local team, the Kingborough Tigers Football Club, a major boost in their campaign to join the Southern Football League. The Kingborough Cricket Club will also benefit enormously from the development.

**The official opening of the Kingston Twin Ovals will be held on Friday the 10th of June.**