

Netball court gets facelift

Work has started on a \$115,000 facelift for the Forbes netball courts, including the resurfacing of all nine courts and rebuilding of court surrounds.

The bulk of the funds for the project - \$105,000 - was part of \$500,000 granted to Forbes Shire Council in April as part of the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

However, Forbes Netball Association re-

ceived an extra \$10,000 for the works this week from Coulston Group Transactions, the developer of the new Woolworths supermarket.

Forbes Shire Council's construction supervisor, Tim Smart, said two specialist contractors had been engaged to complete the project, which is expected to be finished before the start of the summer competition.

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Court upgrade

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Asphalt specialists, Sharpe Brothers, completed rebuilding the court surrounds on Tuesday, while the resurfacing contractors, Kangaroo Courts, plan to start work on September 5.

Former Forbes Netball president Robyn Kenny said it was exciting to see the court refurbishment get underway.

"This has been a personal project of mine for over five years and it is very exciting to see that everything is going to be rebuilt," Mrs Kenny said.

The work is expected to produce more even playing surfaces, providing better grip and lessen the impact on players' feet, ankles and knees.

The courts themselves will be coated with Kanga-Pave, which includes three layers, topped by a mixture of sand and latex.

The surface is said to be hard-wearing, resistant to all weather and easy to maintain, while also giving a truer, more consistent bounce of the ball.

Meanwhile, the new court surrounds are expected to reduce the risk of painful injuries to netballers and umpires.

Repairs to the Forbes netball courts, on the corner of Lawler Street and Bedgerebong Road, were fast-tracked with the use of the Sharpe Bros' Flexipaver, which can be adapted from its usual road repair process to provide a smoother and safer edge around the courts.

The Sharpe Bros Flexipaver machine will also be working with Forbes Council this week to repair sections of the Newell Highway near the Oxley Bridge

and Dowling, Sam and Oxford streets.

Managing director of Sharpe Bros, Michael Sharpe, said the Flexipaver was width and height adjustable and could patch sections of asphalt down to one metre wide, making it an ideal method for repairing the edges of the courts.

"The Flexipaver road repair equipment can be easily adapted to provide a neat, seamless edge around the netball courts, with no dips and no bumps, giving umpires and players a strong, smooth surface to run on and reducing the likelihood of injuries," Mr Sharpe said.

Mr Sharpe said the family had spent millions developing the Flexipaver adjustable patching process which overcomes the limitations of traditional patching machinery.

"Previously there were two choices - using a large machine meant a whole section of 'good' road or asphalt surface had to be ripped up and replaced wasting materials and money; or the other alternative was to complete the patching work by hand which took a long time and resulted in an inferior surface," Mr Sharpe said.

Tim Smart said the new green surface courts should be ready for use by late September.

Robyn Kenny thanked Forbes Shire Council and Walt Coulston of Coulston Group Transactions on behalf of Forbes Netball for their allocation of funds.

She said the court improvements would make netball safer for players and umpires and also may bring more players to the game.



Forbes Netball Association project officer Robyn Kenny, Hayden Sharpe of Sharpe Bros and Forbes Shire Council's Tim Smart at the netball courts this week. [0809netball](#)