

MEDIA RELEASE
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Work to start on \$13m world-standard BMX track, soccer facility

A ground-breaking ceremony will today be held next to the site where South Australia's only international-standard BMX track and a soccer facility worth more than \$13 million will be built.

In a huge boost for the region, construction is set to begin on the Sam Willoughby International BMX Track and Southern Football Facility at the Glenthorne National Park, Ityamaitpinna Yarta.

The sports hub, which will be a new home for an estimated 900 soccer players and BMX riders, will be completed later this year. The project is thanks to significant investment by the City of Marion, the City of Onkaparinga, the State Government and the Australian Government.

The soccer facility will cost \$7 million and include three floodlit turf pitches, clubrooms with a kitchen, bar, and car parking. The BMX track will cost \$6.05 million, be named after local champion Sam Willoughby, and include a floodlit track, clubrooms and car parking.

Mayor Kris Hanna said: "After many years, work will soon begin on building world-class facilities in the region which will benefit hundreds of soccer players and BMX riders".

"BMX will be on the international stage in the City of Marion. Local soccer players and BMX riders of all ages will train and compete in new venues. We are addressing a shortfall of quality facilities in the area and catering for increased demand. I thank the State Government for its significant contribution to both projects. I also thank Onkaparinga Council for its funding towards the BMX track and the Federal Government for its contributions to both projects."

Onkaparinga Mayor Erin Thompson said:

"This project is another example of local and state government working together to deliver facilities our communities have told us they need. Promoting healthy active lifestyles is a key focus for the City of Onkaparinga and having this facility on our doorstep will contribute to that, while also helping to identify and nurture future sporting stars".

Sam Willoughby, who started his BMX career at the current Happy Valley track, recorded a video message from his home in California for the ground-breaking ceremony.

Mr Willoughby said:

“This is going to be one of the greatest BMX facilities in the world. I’ve been particularly involved in the design process of the track itself and I’m very excited about what we’ve come up with; it’s got something for everyone. To think there’s going to be a world-class BMX facility that has the ability to host international events in our home city is something that I never could have dreamt of as a kid. It’s going to raise the level of our local BMX riders. Everyone from around the world is going to want to come and use this facility”.

BACKGROUND

Project details:

The \$7 million **Southern Soccer Facility** will include:

- Three floodlit turf pitches
- Clubrooms with kitchen, bar, meeting room
- Car park for 320 cars
- Provision for a future fourth pitch
- Landscaping

Cove Football (soccer) Club will move into the Southern Soccer Facility from the Cove Sports and Community Club

The \$6.05 million **Sam Willoughby BMX Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Track** will include:

- BMX track
- Floodlighting
- Clubrooms
- Car park for 108 cars
- Landscaping
- 5 and 8 metre start hills

The track will be home to Cove and Happy Valley BMX Clubs. Mr Willoughby personally endorsed the design for the new track.

The hub will be built by South Australian company Partek Construction and Interiors and create 85 jobs during construction.

Funding:

\$7 million soccer facility:

- Marion Council is providing \$4.5 million of funding and the State Government \$2.5 million

\$6.05 million BMX track:

- Marion Council is providing \$1.75 million of funding, the State Government \$3.55 million and Onkaparinga Council \$750,000.

The projects have received Federal Government funding through *Move It AUS – Community Sport Infrastructure* Grant from Sport Australia, Australian Government. This included \$200,000 for the soccer change rooms and \$100,000 for the BMX clubhouse.

The hub will be located in Glenthorne National Park, Ityamaitpinna Yarta in the Kaurna language, further adding to the recreation, environmental and sporting precinct.

Marion Council is contributing \$2 million towards building an iconic, nature-focussed, playground at the park.