

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria)

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Funding boost for Eagle Park shooting range

The Eagle Park shooting range at Little River will be ready for an influx of new clay target shooters after Australia's gold medal win at the Rio Olympic Games.

A \$100,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Shooting Sports Facilities Program – bolstered by \$50,000 of Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) funds – will allow for several major improvements at one of the Association's premier ranges.

Among the projects, SSAA Victoria has committed to purchasing three new clay target throwers, which will now accommodate new shooters inspired to join the sport by Catherine Skinner, who won gold in the Shooting Trap Women's event.

SSAA Victoria Facilities Manager Shaun Doyle said the addition of the new clay target throwers would mean patrons could shoot clay targets every day that the range was open to the public.

"Our five stand range will have the benefit of two new clay target throwers and a third new clay target thrower will be installed on the public shooting range," he said.

"The five stand range operates from 10am to 4pm throughout the weekend but the clay target thrower on the main range will give shooters the opportunity to shoot clay targets on Mondays and Fridays as well."

Other works to be funded by the grant include increasing the number of benches on the public shooting range to 104, refurbishing the range office to better service patrons and constructing a disability access ramp on the public range.

SSAA Victoria Chief Executive Officer Jack Wegman said the projects would make the range more accessible to members and the wider public, and pave the way for new shooters to join the sport.

"I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Sport John Eren and the Shooting Sports Facilities Program panel for supporting us through this process," he said.

In his letter to the Association, Minister Eren said the Victorian Government was "strongly committed to developing the shooting sports".

"We understand the important role that the sport plays in fostering a vibrant, inclusive and connected community," he said. "We are excited to support the Shooting Sports Facilities Program and ensure the sustainability of local shooting clubs in Victoria."

Works will commence at the range shortly after the funds are received. They will all be finalised by the end of 2017.

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