

New track to benefit and attract elite sports stars

IT is hoped the new Hay Park athletics track will lead to an elite athletics program being set up through the South West Academy of Sport.

Bunbury Mayor David Smith said he hoped once the academy's core sports of basketball, football, soccer and hockey were well established, athletics would be added.

As a former athletics State champion, Mr Smith said it was a sport close to his heart.

Mr Smith said he hoped the improved facilities would keep Bunbury athletes involved in the sport for longer and would attract athletes from across the region.

“This will give South West athletes a track that is comparable to those in the metropolitan area,” he said.

Mr Smith's comments come after Bunbury City Council approved the surface of the track.

It will be the same type as that used in international arenas around the world including the Sydney Olympic Stadium and the newly constructed AK Stadium in Perth.

The council has approved installation of the Sportflex track at a cost of \$810,488.

The track has a life of more than 10 years.

The council will set aside \$70,000 annually to fund future resurfacing.

Construction is due to begin before the end of the year.

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