

# Mayoral Message

Dear Resident



As the Mayor of this great City, there are many projects and events that we are working on for our entire community.

Some of the things we're planning include master plans for our main centres that will deliver job opportunities, major events to support out local businesses, and trialling new technology which will enhance our services.

However, it is the small things we do for our community that mean so much and quite often, go unnoticed.

We supported our local cafes and restaurants by waiving footway dining fees, assisted our nurses and medical staff by providing free hospital parking passes, and when it was brought to my attention our sporting organisations needed a hand, it was time to step in.

The recent rain meant that our parks and most of our sporting facilities were waterlogged. Several of our grounds were forced to close because they were unsafe to use.

Thousands of players missed out on their weekly games, and in some instances, the grounds were so badly affected they were shut for weeks on end. As a father myself, I know how disappointing it was for the kids who had been looking forward to their weekend games, to be told their games were put off.

But it wasn't only the kids who were devastated by the unprecedented and constant heavy rain... there were huge financial implications on the many sporting organisations and federations that run sport in our City.

These sporting bodies are not multi-million dollar organisations that are dripping with cash... they rely on the mums and dads paying registration fees, the weekend barbeques, the canteens and the sausage sizzles to stay afloat.

To put it simply, when the grounds are closed, there are no games and they take the financial hit.

That's why at the last Council Meeting, I ensured these sporting organisations wouldn't be left behind. Council decided to waive the sporting ground fees for winter sports, which had been affected by the weather for two months.

Hopefully, we've seen the last of the lousy weather and our sporting organisations can get back on the field without the financial burden.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Khal Asfour  
**MAYOR**