



ABORIGINAL KNOCKOUT RETURNING TO DUBBO NEXT YEAR

Mayor of Dubbo Region Ben Shields has welcomed the announcement that the 2018 Aboriginal Knockout will be returning to Dubbo.

Dubbo first played host to the event in 2016 and not only was the city of Dubbo a sell-out, but it was immensely popular among locals and visitors from across the region and the state, delivering far-reaching social and economic benefits to the district.

“The Aboriginal Knockout is an event of national significance which Dubbo is proud to be hosting for a second time,” Mr Shields said.

“We are looking forward to extending a warm welcome to all visitors and expect they will enjoy the great facilities and services our City has to offer,” he said.

President of the Newcastle Yowies Warren Schillings said that it was an easy decision for the club to bring the competition back to Dubbo.

“The Dubbo Aboriginal community has supported us bringing the Aboriginal Knockout to Dubbo and we are thankful to the representatives of the local clubs including the Dubbo Pacemakers and the Googars who have welcomed teams back to Dubbo in 2018,” Mr Schillings said.

“Although it is a football competition, there is more to it than that, it is one of the biggest cultural events in Australia with people from across the country celebrating Aboriginal culture and talent,” he said.

“The event itself will have a real family carnival atmosphere with everyone involved and catered for including our Aboriginal Elders through to activities for families and children and Rugby League fans of all types.”

Mr Schillings said hosting the 2018 Knockout in Dubbo also gives teams from inland towns and smaller teams a chance to nominate and play closer to home while the location will also attract teams from coastal areas.

“People travel from across NSW to catch up with their families and Dubbo is perfectly located halfway between the western towns like Walgett, Bourke and Brewarrina, and coastal cities like Newcastle,” he said.

“The facilities here at Dubbo’s Apex Oval are a perfect match for the nature of the competition,” Mr Schillings said.

“With the layout of the playing fields at Apex Oval it adds to the atmosphere and makes it feel like a big family gathering,” he said.

Councillor Shields said Dubbo has a track record of staging some memorable events including the Triple J One Night Stand, the 2016 Artlands Conference and the Australian Junior Indoor Cricket Championships.

“This event will inject some \$6.6 million into the local economy through accommodation, meals and other costs incurred by visiting teams,” Councillor Shields said.

“This event is a great lift for Dubbo because we are a sporting city and everyone loves football so it is a social and economic coup,” he said.

Dubbo can expect an influx of more than 5,000 overnight visitors coming to attend the Aboriginal Knockout with a further 5,000 expected to travel in from around the region each day of the tournament. Spectator numbers could swell to 15,000 including fans and teams from Dubbo.

“Events like the NSW Aboriginal Knockout are further proof that Dubbo has the facilities and services to host large events that attract big crowds. This will be a great event and is another big win for the City of Dubbo,” Councillor Shields said.

Caption: Mayor of Dubbo Region Ben Shields with President of the Newcastle Yowies Warren Schillings and Uncle Barry Moran.

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