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Media Release:

The local hockey community are better protected from the outside elements

Player and visitors at the Collie Hockey Association are much more comfortable and protected from harsh weather, thanks to a \$5,000 donation from Premier Coal to purchase and install patio blinds at the clubhouse.

After 15 years since their last upgrade, the new patio blinds are on the eastern side of the clubhouse, allowing spectators to watch the game and be shielded from the inclement weather. The new blinds also cover the canteen area and main doors into the club rooms, giving significantly more coverage in the peak foot traffic areas.

Rachel Moloney, Treasurer of the Collie Hockey Association was delighted with the upgrade to the clubhouse.

“We were in urgent need of replacing our existing patio blinds, they were weather worn, torn and no longer effective. This was proving to be a problem for our members who could not seek shelter from the weather when watching hockey games.

“Being an older building and near the river, it can get bitterly cold for our players and spectators.

“We also recognised that some members were choosing to stay in their cars and watch the hockey games so we are hoping the new outdoor blinds will bring them back into the facility and reinvigorate the sense of community that sport encourages.

“We are primarily self-funded and run by volunteers, so we are thankful to Premier Coal for their ongoing financial support to help keep our hockey facility to a high standard for the benefit of the community,” said Rachel.

Located on Preston Road, the Collie Hockey Association has around 300 registered players ranging in age from 5 years old through to seniors. It runs women’s, men’s and junior hockey competitions on an international standard turf playing surface.

Premier Coal Operations Manager, Braedon Gaske, was pleased to help upgrade the local hockey facility.

“Hockey is a great team sport that encourages fitness, body strength, coordination, and communication. It brings many people within our community together and we are pleased our funding can go towards upgrading the hockey facility.

“We hope the hockey community have a great season and enjoy the upgrade to their facility,” said Braedon.

The donation was part of the Premier Coal Community Support Program, which is funded by Yancoal and aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in Collie.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia's largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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