2020 ANNUAL REVIEW

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

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FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chris Nikou

What a year 2020 has been.

I am pleased to report, on behalf of the FFA Board, that through great adversity and uncertainty, our sport has been able to embrace change and place itself in a strong position to take the next step in its evolution.

In extremely difficult circumstances, we have continued the important work of implementing the critical structural changes to our game that were agreed in 2018.

Change is difficult but necessary if we are to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We now see greater representation for the professional clubs, the players through the auspices of the PFA and the Women's Football Council. The possibility of expanding the Congress in the years to come to include further stakeholder groups is necessary to ensuring the voice of the football community is heard at the highest levels of football administration.

Today, a broader Congress, more reflective of the games' stakeholders, elects the Board of Directors of FFA. The Board itself is a balanced Board which boasts a diversity of skills, expertise, and experience.

It gives me great pleasure to report that, in line with the recent amendments to our Constitution, the fully constituted FFA Board meets its own requirements for 40/40/20 gender split (40% male/40% female/20% optional).

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We envisage further governance reform in 2021 as we seek to strengthen and protect football in Australia. It is intended that FFA Director Robyn Fitzroy will recommence the work of the Constitution Review Group (constituted in early 2020 but placed on hold because of COVID-19) following the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Board Members who have helped steer the game so diligently and expertly over the course of what has been an extremely difficult year.

In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to outgoing Director and Board Member Remo Nogarotto for his service to the game, not just in his most recent term with the FFA but for his many decades of contribution to football in Australia.

In late 2019, the newly constituted Board of Directors appointed James Johnson as FFA's Chief Executive Officer to lead the organisation into this new era of football in Australia.

James has a long history with the game in Australia having grown up playing his junior football in Rockhampton and Brisbane, as well as having represented Australia at U-17 (Joeys) level and playing professionally in both Australia and Vietnam. He had spent the past ten years working for the likes of AFC, FIFA, and the City Football Group, making an impact at the highest levels of global football.

We have seen this year that James' global experience and his ability to understand the various touchpoints in Australian football have proven to be an effective mix as we look to address the different challenges facing the game domestically and enhance our global reputation.

Our Board has been focused on taking the necessary steps to ensure the protection, enhancement, and continued growth of our game. We have placed particular emphasis internally on establishing clear delineation and responsibility in line with global best practice governance principles.

The value in taking these steps has been highlighted in what has been one of the most difficult years for Australian football to date. In total, the Board convened over 20 times, highlighting the peculiarity of the year that has been and the strong dialogue which took place between the FFA Board and management.

In turn, FFA's administration has been empowered to address the many challenges facing our game today and chart a plan for our new path forward. This has seen greater accountability and efficiency and has meant that FFA has been able to remain agile and response in its administration of the game.

A summer of bushfires which ravaged many parts of the country then gave way to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is undoubtedly the most significant existential threat the game has seen in recent history. Ultimately, increasing health concerns and heightened travel restrictions would lead to the suspension of all football-related activities across the country.

In response, like all other industries, football's governing bodies at all levels of the game took the necessary steps to stabilise the game and made the required adjustments to ensure that football was in a strong position to recover.

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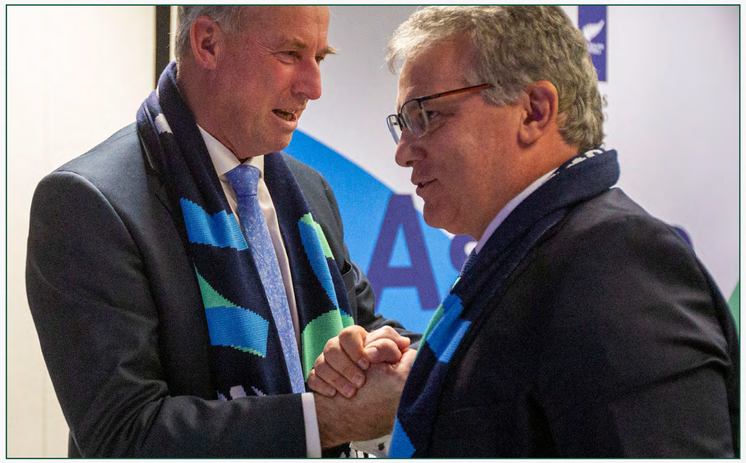

For FFA, the suspension of the Hyundai A-League season in March, which resulted in the renegotiation of FFA's long-term media rights agreement with Fox Sports Australia, and the suspension of all international and grassroots football activity, caused the greatest challenge to the financial stability of the organisation.

Despite these difficulties, FFA was able to sign a new broadcast deal for FY2021 which provided immediate certainty for the Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League competitions and whilst the postponement of national team activity and the latter stages of the Hyundai A-League impacted our bottom-line financial result, we remain confident that, through strong collaboration with key stakeholders, the game's finances will stabilise.

This year, Sydney FC and Melbourne City FC dominated both the Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League. I would like to congratulate both clubs on reaching the Grand Final of both competitions, specifically Melbourne City FC for being crowned our Westfield W-League Champions and Sydney FC for taking out the Hyundai A-League Championship for a record fifth time.

Collaboration with the games' stakeholders has been a hallmark of FFA this year and is recognition of our deliberate effort to move towards a more consultative and collaborative engagement model. We believe that it is vital to the prosperity of the game that the voices of all stakeholders are gathered and heard.

Meetings between FFA administration and Member Federation staff now take place on an almost weekly basis and our relationships with other Congress members and the broader football stakeholder community remains strong. The Memorandum of Understanding executed between FFA and Football Coaches Australia in August this year is a sign of our new approach to stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

What we have learnt over the course of this year is that this type of collaboration is vital to the ongoing health and growth of our game. This approach has allowed us to take unified positions on key matters, such as the suspension of football, and remains important through the remainder of the year and into 2021 as we address and implement key initiatives.

We entered 2020 with a feeling that we had a tangible opportunity to break new ground. Despite an extremely difficult year, that opportunity still exists, and we believe wholeheartedly that 2021 will be a year of positive change and we can enter the new year with excitement and hope.

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In March 2020, we published our annual census report which showed that the number of participants climbed to nearly 2 million in 2019. While growth was experienced across all areas of the game, I am proud to say that it was driven in large part due to the increase in the number of women and girls participating in football-related activities which rose by 11% and now represent some 22% of the total number of players across Australia.

The resumption of football in July 2020 (in most parts except Victoria), breathed life back into our game and we are slowly beginning to find our feet once more. With borders reopening around the country, we believe that participants will eagerly return to the game after an interrupted season this year.

It is important to recognise the ongoing support from the Federal, State and Local Governments throughout Australia, who have responded and supported our sport throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our relationship with Federal, State and Territory Governments remains strong and we are excited about the possibilities of partnership, particularly as we look to implement a robust Legacy Framework for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

Since the completion of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season our professional clubs have taken on more responsibility and control over various league operational matters. We will continue to transition to a new, unbundled, operating framework throughout the next season, which will see the establishment of a separate but allied entity to house and administer the professional leagues.

This is a significant milestone for the professional game and a crucial step in the maturation and ongoing evolution of football in Australia. The contributions of our professional clubs, the State and Territory Members Federations and the players cannot be understated. Unbundling the professional leagues has been a key deliverable of the broader governance reform and I would like to congratulate them for their support in delivering this outcome.

We will also see the professional leagues better align with our grassroots football season. A move which we believe will continue to foster unity and alignment and promote greater connection between the professional game and the rest of the football ecosystem, and at the same time open up opportunities for product innovation.

Next season, we welcome Macarthur FC, our 12th team in the A-League, which will play out of Campbelltown Stadium and represent an area rich in football heritage and one of the country's fastest growing population corridor. The signing of former Westfield Matildas Head Coach Ante Milicic as inaugural Head Coach, along with Socceroos veteran Mark Milligan and many more, will ensure that the club is competitive from day one. We wish Macarthur FC every success as it joins the topflight men's football competition in Australia.

The Westfield W-League continues to receive great support as it enters its 13th year and we are excited about the possibilities for further growth of the competition, particularly in the lead up to our co-hosting of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Women's football presents the greatest opportunity for growth in Australian football and we are focused on maximising this great period for the game as we look to transform Australia into the centre of women's football in the Asia-Pacific region.

We want to become a producer of world class talent and during the year, we have put significant work into analysing our player development pathways. This work has been captured in the Performance Gap report for both men and women, which highlights the requirement of our young talented players to be playing more match minutes and more frequently. This report will provide a strong basis to drive the development strategies to best position the sport in future years.

The development of a national second tier framework, including any future national second division, remains a priority for FFA and is acknowledged within our XI Principles for the future of Australian football ('XI Principles'). FFA is excited to move the discussion towards from concept to practical implementation.

Following the unbundling of the Leagues, FFA is well placed to call upon its experience of administering and operating a national competition framework.

It is vital that any framework should be developed for the benefit of the entire game by supporting the sustainability of clubs and competitions. A thriving domestic football landscape and accessible pathways are essential to producing future generations of Westfield Matildas and Socceroos.

FFA continues to build its reputation amongst the global football community.

In September this year, we were able to have three more members from FFA's management appointed to positions on Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Committees. This provides Australian football with an enhanced opportunity to engage directly with AFC, its Member Associations, and contribute to the development of football across the vast and diverse Confederation.

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The granting of co-hosting rights to the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 was a watershed moment for Australian football and enjoys the same company as the Socceroos qualification in 2005 as one of the game's truly iconic moments and one which will change the face of football in this country forever. The announcement also speaks directly to the standing which Australian football holds in global football and demonstrates the power and potential of women's football in Australia.

The ongoing growth and development of Australian football will be anchored in women's football and significant work with Member Federations, Governments, and other stakeholders, has already gone into ensuring that we can maximise the benefits of hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 via the establishment of an innovative legacy framework.

The Participation of the Westfield Matildas at the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 in France has raised the profile of the team to unprecedented levels. The heightened interest in the team has also coincided with most of our Westfield Matildas now also playing for the biggest clubs, in the biggest leagues around the world. We should all be extremely excited about the possibilities for this team.

There is no doubting the Westfield Matildas have become one of Australia's favourite teams, of any sports, and in the appointment of Tony Gustavsson, we believe we have the right person to take unlock the potential of our team and take it to the next level.

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The Tokyo Olympics next year will be the first test of the Westfield Matildas in this new era under Gustavsson as the team looks to test itself against the world's best.

Qualifying through the AFC for the Olyroos has been a difficult task in recent years. After a 12-year absence however, we are looking forward to Graham Arnold guiding the team at next years' Tokyo Olympics. The Olyroos players hold a vital place in the development pathway for our Socceroos with many going on to eventually play for the senior side, so it is pleasing to see these young players gain valuable international exposure. It will be the first time since 2004, that both the Westfield Matildas and Socceroos, will be competing in the Olympics.

Next year will be a significant year for our Socceroos as they restart their long road to the FIFA World Cup 2022. While their participation at this year's Copa America was not possible, it is hoped that our strong relationship with CONMEBOL will see the Socceroos participating in the fabled competition in 2021.

Our national teams continue to inspire and unite Australians all over the world. The unbundling of the professional leagues means that FFA is now able to refocus itself on its core business of supporting national teams and nurturing the grass roots of the game.

It was with great sadness when Socceroos great, Mark Milligan, informed FFA of his decision to retire from international football in December 2019.

Mark was an important member of Australia's last four FIFA World Cup squads. The first of Milligan's 80 matches at senior level for Australia came against Liechtenstein in June 2006 in a friendly fixture ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany, with his final game coming on home soil in Australia's 5-0 FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification victory over Nepal in Canberra in October 2019. On behalf of the Board of FFA I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark for his magnificent contribution towards the Green and Gold and wish him and his family all the best with their future endeavours.

Through the XI Principles, we have now set a bold and innovative 15-year vision and strategic agenda for football in Australia and I congratulate the FFA administration, Member Federations, Women's Football Council, A-League clubs and other stakeholders who contributed their thoughts and provided guidance throughout the process. Pleasingly, we received over 3,100 responses from the community to our online surveys and I would also like to thank all those who took the opportunity to have their say on the future of Australian football.

Now more than ever, our game needs broad stakeholder alignment and buy-in. It is vital that we acknowledge our common interests and act with a unity of purpose. Importantly, we must have the courage to be bold, think creatively and stand up for the good of the game.

We are at the precipice of great change. 2021 will be a year of implementation and action – we ask you to join us as we embark on this journey.

Chris Nikou
Chairman

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

CEO'S REPORT

James Johnson

There were several factors which I considered when making my decision to accept the role as CEO of Football Federation Australia. As a boy, I grew up playing my football in regional Queensland and I would eventually go on to represent my country. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to play the game and have parents who sacrificed so much for me to be able to do so.

When taking the role, I felt, and still do, a great deal of responsibility to all those out there who love playing football and might dream of one day representing their country also, and to those that dedicate so much of their lives to contributing to a sport they love, be it, volunteering, refereeing, coaching or administering. What ultimately drove my decision, was what I saw as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make change and to help Australian football unlock its true potential.

When I took up the post in January 2020, Australian football was in its most significant period of transformation and operationally, FFA had significant steps to take ahead of it. The unbundling of the A-League (including the Westfield W-League and Y-League) would ultimately lead to a significant downsizing of staff and reduction of revenues. The possibility of hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ also loomed large while Olympic Qualifiers, the Copa America and FIFA World Cup Qualifiers™ where major fixtures in our national teams' calendar.

I am pleased to report that nearing the close of 2020, FFA oversaw the successful qualification of both the Westfield Matildas and the Olyroos – the first time since 2008 for the Olyroos and 2004 for both the Westfield Matildas and Olyroos – to the Tokyo Olympics, which has now been rescheduled to 2021.

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Who will ever forget the early hours of Friday, 26 June 2020, when FFA and New Zealand Football ('NZF') were awarded hosting rights for the FIFA Women's World Cup™ 2023, after the FIFA Council voted 22-13 in favour of our joint, 'As One' bid. It is a decision that changed the face of football in Australia forever, and with the development of a robust Legacy Framework on the back of these hosting rights in collaboration with the football community, will ensure that it will have a lasting impact for future generations.

The success of the bid represented a watershed moment for football in Australia and indeed global football. As the first FIFA Women's World Cup to be held in the Southern Hemisphere; the first co-Confederation FIFA Women's World Cup; and the first senior FIFA tournament in Australia and New Zealand, hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ demonstrates just how much more globalised football is today than it has ever been, and the opportunities available to Australian football to leverage from for the benefit of the domestic game.

We also saw the emergence of a new threat, not just to football but one which would cause significant loss to human life and wipe out entire economies. The COVID-19 pandemic tested Australian football in an unprecedented way and significantly challenged our traditional operating model. It is likely that this impact will be felt for years to come as Australian football faces a COVID-19 normal landscape until such time a vaccine becomes available. We anticipate some impact on our participation numbers and associated revenues as a result of the suspension of the grassroots game in 2020 and expected challenging economic conditions that threaten previous levels of support.

As the threat of COVID-19 pandemic quickly began to spread across the globe, FFA, our Member Federations and Clubs at all levels of the game, took the necessary steps to stabilise the game and made the required adjustments to ensure that football was in a strong position to recover.

In late March 2020, the temporary stoppage to football activity and the unprecedented loss of revenues meant that FFA made the difficult decision to stand-down approximately 70 per cent of its staff due to the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Member Federations also took similar measures, and it was only until July that we began to see some improvement in the situation, except for Victoria. As of November 2020, 20 per cent of FFA's staff continued to be stood down.

The pandemic would go on to impact domestic, regional, and international football across the globe. For our national teams it meant that after moving swiftly to have the Westfield Matildas' Olympic Group Qualifying matches relocated to Sydney, no further international football was played in 2020 following the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the Copa America. While two friendlies had been organised for the Socceroos in November 2020, these did not eventuate due to the ongoing travel restrictions and health concerns presented by COVID-19.

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FFA was however, able to organise various team camps and opportunities during the month of November for talent identification for the Westfield Matildas and youth teams including, the Olyroos, Young Socceroos, Young Matildas and Joeys.

After the Westfield Matildas' qualification to the Tokyo Olympics, we bid farewell to Ante Milicic who took up the Head Coaching role with new expansion A-League side Macarthur Football Club. We thank Ante for his contribution to the Westfield Matildas, which included guiding the team to the knockout stage of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2019 in France.

Following an extensive and thorough search, on 29 September 2020, we appointed highly experienced coach, Tony Gustavsson, as the new Head Coach of the Westfield Matildas for a four-year term which will include four major tournaments - the Tokyo (2021) and Paris (2024) Olympic Games, as well as the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 and the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023. A two-time FIFA Women's World Cup winner and Olympic Gold Medallist with the US women's national team, we believe that Tony has the right temperament and experience to take our 7th ranked Matildas to the next level.

During difficult COVID-19 circumstances, we saw a more united game than before. Through regular dialogue and engagement, FFA and the Member Federations, together with the A-League Clubs and Professional Footballers Australia ('PFA'), were able to arrive at a united stance in relation to the suspension of football in March of 2020. That same level of collaboration also ensured that football could resume in line with Government guidelines, breathing life into the sport.

Fox Sports Australia ('FSA') has been a partner of Australian football through its broadcasting agreement with FFA since the inception of the A-League and Westfield W-League. The termination of FFA's long term broadcast agreement with FSA because of the impact of COVID-19, and then the subsequent negotiation of a one-year deal, meant that FFA has been able to maintain its relationship with a long-term partner and secure the immediate future of both the A-League and Westfield W-League through a contractual agreement which was adjusted to Australian football's new reality. The revised agreement was a significant achievement in a time of increased financial constraints and uncertainty on football and the Australian sports industry more broadly. It provided flexibility for FFA to lay a foundation to transition into a new world for Australian professional football.

The new agreement with FSA meant that FFA, A-League Clubs and the PFA were also able to successfully conclude an agreement which saw a 'festival of football' close out the remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season and Sydney FC crowned Champions of Australian football for the fifth time following its victory over Melbourne City FC.

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The same clubs battled it out in the Westfield W-League Grand Final held in March, this time with Melbourne City FC running out winners over Sydney FC. I would also like to acknowledge Dolan Warren medallists Alessandro Diamanti of Western United FC and Kristen Hamilton of Western Sydney Wanderers FC.

A special mention must also go to Shadeene Evans from Sydney FC who was awarded received the rebel Role Model Award at the rebel Female Football Awards held in Sydney in March.

Football also worked in close partnership with all levels of Government throughout the response to COVID-19 to ensure that, as the largest club-based participation sport in Australia, it played its part as a good and responsible citizen. We would like to thank State, Territory and Federal Governments for supporting football during such a difficult period.

As restrictions eased and life for Australians began to resemble some form of the normality, football began to slowly find its feet once again. By August 2020, football had returned in all parts of Australia except Victoria which has experienced and endured more devastating and longer lasting effects of the pandemic than any other region of Australia.

Creating strong bonds through key strategic partnerships and advancing a united position meant that FFA was able to remain agile and responsive to what was a fluid and ever-changing environment. It also ensured that despite football not being played, that the game was still able to serve some social utility, not just for the benefit of the vast Australian football community but also Australian society at large. The partnership with Australian Red Cross ('Red Cross') established in late March 2020, in collaboration with the Member Federations, allowed FFA to commit Australian football's platform to Red Cross in support of its initiative to support vulnerable Australians.

Our digital platforms have played a vital role in ensuring that FFA has been able to keep the football community engaged and connected. We foresaw significant disruption to the domestic and international football and moved swiftly to pivot some of our planning to ensure that our participants and fans retained, or even grew, their connections to the game and our iconic senior sides throughout this challenging period.

This shift in strategy has seen exponential growth in our digital presence and we intend to continuously evolve our digital and social products to ensure that we enhance our connection with our football community and deliver consistent value to our partners. Across the 2020 Financial Year, the Socceroos digital platforms saw a 244% increase in total video views; 355% increase in total hours viewed; and 14% increase in total social engagements. The Westfield Matildas digital platforms over the same period saw equally impressive growth with a 91.5% increase in total video views; 157% increase in total hours viewed; and 9.3% increase in social followers.

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To help refocus FFA around a football core and to ensure the best interests of the game are at the forefront of its thinking and driving its decision-making, in April 2020, we established the Starting XI – an advisory group of former players and coaches with years of lived experience in football which provides guidance to FFA's Football Development Committee.

In early June 2020, the Starting XI recommended that FFA establish a new and modern domestic transfer system to address some of Australian football's player production challenges and kickstart the domestic football economy. The Starting XI has also provided valuable input into two studies carried out by FFA into Australia's player development pathways.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the entire football family to rethink the way football is delivered across the country and has highlighted the opportunity for reform in Australian football. To underpin this transformation, FFA published its XI Principles for the future of Australian football ('XI Principles'). After first being launched as a 'living' discussion paper in July 2020, the XI Principles were published in its final form in October 2020, following an extensive process of consultation which engaged the entire Australian football ecosystem.

The XI Principles take a holistic view of Australian football and the challenges facing it ranging from the development of Australia's football identity, to the optimisation of competition structures, the establishment of world class youth development pathways, and the ongoing positioning of Australia's national teams – especially the Westfield Matildas and Socceroos – as the unifying symbols of the sport.

The XI Principles represents the strategic agenda and 15-year vision for Australian football and replaced the Whole of Football Plan published in May 2015. Importantly, it establishes an excellent platform for Australian football to develop an exciting and new strategic direction for Australian football. After establishing the 'What' and the 'Why' of football in Australia via the XI Principles, FFA has moved into the 'Who', 'When', and the 'How', to bring the XI Principles to life.

FFA is now focussed on turning the XI Principles into an operational framework which can be implemented, in collaboration with the games' stakeholders, across the Australian football ecosystem. Since its publication in October 2020, FFA has put the gears of this framework into motion, with several key strategic initiatives across all XI Principles. For the final quarter of 2020, FFA has focused on what it deemed to be foundational initiatives in relation to building Australian football's identity and developing a complementary narrative. It also commenced the preliminary work required to kick start Australian football's transition towards a 'One Football' governance model.

The transformation of Australian football has been ongoing through the course of 2020, but the XI Principles has provided the impetus to crystalise ongoing matters and drive a fresh and exciting agenda for football in Australia. Since it was published as a living document in July 2020, FFA has delivered on various initiatives in direct pursuit of the Principles including:

- Reaching agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Football Coaches Australia (FCA)
- Advancing plans for a National 'Home of Football' in Sydney and supporting Football Victoria to secure funding towards the 'Home of the Matildas' and Victoria's State Football Centre project to be located at La Trobe University in Victoria
- Securing hosting rights for two (2) AFC youth women's qualification tournaments in regional Australia (Cessnock and Shepparton)
- Advancing internal and external discussions regarding aligning the national football calendar and the evolution of the National Premier Leagues (NPL)
- Appointing Trevor Morgan (National Technical Director), Ron Smith (Technical Advisor), and Rae Dower (Women's Technical Advisor) to key technical positions
- Appointing Jane Fernandez as FFA's Head of FIFA Women's World Cup Office and Peter Filopoulos as FFA's Head of Marketing, Corporate Affairs and Communications
- Finalising a new National Teams Collective Bargaining Agreement 'CBA' which maintains gender equality principles
- Entering into new commercial agreements for the Westfield Matildas

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FFA is fully committed to the ongoing transformation of Australian football and will continue to implement various initiatives to affect the desired change which they game the game has needed. Throughout the course of the year, we have returned football to the centre of the organisation by ensuring the best interests of the game are being served and at the forefront of our decision making. We are now seeing a more outward looking FFA as we seek to maximise the opportunities of an increasingly globalised game and embed ourselves further into the global footballing landscape. We have also, through a steady platform of collaboration, been able to bring our game closer together than it has ever been.

2021 is shaping up to be a year of implementation for FFA as it looks to operationalise the XI Principles. The process of distilling the principles into various initiatives that will cascade down into FFA's departments operating plans is ongoing. FFA is also assessing how these initiatives relate to or require collaboration with Member Federations and other stakeholders across the football ecosystem, both domestically and abroad.

Subject to the lifting of travel restrictions and our ability to ensure the safety and well-being of our players, we also anticipate an action-packed year for our national teams. Significantly, our Westfield Matildas and Olyroos will participate in the Tokyo Olympics while the Socceroos will continue their road to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar with the possibility of also being included in the rescheduled Copa America.

Our youth national teams will also participate in key qualifying tournaments with the Young Socceroos and Joeys vying for a place at the U20 and U17 FIFA World Cups, respectively. We also look forward to hosting the qualifying rounds of AFC's U17 and U20 Women's Asian Cup in Cessnock and Shepparton, respectively, where our future stars will have an opportunity to showcase their talent in front of friends and family on home soil.

Domestically, we anticipate taking significant steps towards establishing improved football products and becoming a producer of world class playing talent as we look to carry out reform to the domestic football landscape.

The recent agreement reached to finalise the unbundling of our professional leagues will see professional football within Australia begin the next chapter in its evolution since the inception of A-League in 2005. It will also mean that FFA can refocus itself around its core business of the national teams and domestic football competitions and products.

Rebuilding and relaunching our domestic football competitions, including the launch of a revamped FFA Cup, are priorities for FFA. The continued development of a national second tier competition framework and the establishment of a national football calendar promotes alignment and connection between our professional game and the rest of the football ecosystem.

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The new broadcast deal for FY2021 has provided immediate certainty whilst allowing the flexibility to enter a new era for the broadcasting of Australian football. The heightened focus on our game in the lead up to hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, coupled with the enhancement of our national team brands, domestic competitions, and football products, creates exciting commercial opportunities for football in Australia.

FFA is in regular dialogue with FIFA, government, and prospective partners about viable commercial opportunities for the game. We believe that Australian football is well placed to capitalise on these as the game seeks to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Player development will also be enhanced through the development and implementation of a modern domestic transfer system. In late 2020, FFA were able to host a series of webinars which included some of the world's leading football organisations such as Manchester United FC, Olympiacos FC, the European Clubs Association and FIFA, who provided insight into the workings of the European and Global football transfer markets and learnings for Australian football.

FFA's White Paper into Australian football's transfer system, which will be launched in December 2020, considers the foundational pillars of a modern domestic transfer system in Australia and aims to stimulate and facilitate a football discourse regarding the opportunities for reform, and what form these changes could take. FFA will complement the White Paper with relevant stakeholder consultation, with it being anticipated that all football stakeholders will have an opportunity to contribute to the reform process.

The game has changed significantly in the last 10 to 12 months. FFA must consequently, change how it is structured to deliver against the current landscape it finds itself in. FFA is now at the backend of an extensive redesign process which will be announced following the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

Australian football has seen significant change over the course of 2020. Where there is change, there will be opportunity, and I believe firmly that the opportunity for further change and positive transformation in Australian football burns brighter than ever. Our success will ultimately be judged on our ability to adapt to change and effect positive transformation. We look forward to working with our football family to take the opportunities presented to us and face our challenges head on.

James Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

THE OPERATING SURPLUS OF FFA FOR 2020 IS $35.5M, A DECREASE FROM $44.0M IN 2019 WHILE THE NET DEFICIT IS $1.8M COMPARED WITH A SURPLUS OF $0.4M IN 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented several challenges to all sport the world over, and football in Australia was no different. However, this did not mean that the 2019/20 financial year was not without its highlights, whilst new opportunities arise moving forward. The most significant challenges from COVID-19 came in the form of the suspension of the Hyundai A-League season in March (resulting in the termination of FFA's long-term media rights agreement with Fox Sports Australia) along with all international and grassroots football activity. This necessitated an immediate response from FFA in order to protect its finances during a period of great uncertainty – this included significant staff stand-downs, cessation of discretionary expenditure and significant reductions in stakeholder distributions to both Clubs and Member Federations.

Despite these difficulties, FFA was able to sign a new broadcast deal for FY2021 which provided immediate certainty whilst allowing the flexibility to enter a new era for the broadcasting of football in Australia thereafter. Whilst the postponement of national team activity and the latter stages of the Hyundai A-League season into FY2021 hurt the bottom-line financial result, there remains a reasonable level of confidence that, through collaboration with key stakeholders, the game's finances will stabilise. This will be the case particularly in anticipation of the 'unbundling' of the Professional Leagues through FY2021.

We highlight the following results for FFA (inclusive of all Leagues operations):

- **Operating Surplus for the year ended 30 June 2020 is $35.5m**
- **Grants & Distributions for the year ended 30 June 2020 were $37.3m**
- **Net Deficit for the year ended 30 June 2020 is $1.8m**
- **Net Members' Equity at 30 June 2020 is $4.9m**

The financial results encapsulate the revenues and expenditures of administering and/or supporting the key pillars of our global game including:

- **Six National Competitions**
  (Hyundai A-League, Westfield W-League, Foxtel Y-League, FFA Cup, National Premier Leagues, E-League)
- **Nine National Teams**
  (Junior national teams through to both the men's and women's senior teams – the Socceroos and Westfield Matildas) competing across all corners of Asia and the world.
- **Football Development**
  (MiniRoos, National Premier Leagues, player pathways, coach education, etc)

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

OPERATING REVENUE

SUMMARISED PROFIT & LOSS ($'000)	2020	2019
Broadcast	56,925	62,521
Sponsorship	21,451	28,557
Gate Receipts	1,287	6,192
Host Government	1,894	2,628
Grants	7,931	10,553
Prize Money	(73)	1,352
Registration & Affiliation	10,387	11,362
Merchandising	1,936	2,519
Other	6,773	6,485
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	**108,511**	**132,168**

OPERATING EXPENSES

SUMMARISED PROFIT & LOSS ($'000)	2020	2019
Employee Benefits	25,173	28,640
Travel	10,639	13,163
Marketing & Media	14,209	18,926
Event Hosting	1,656	4,230
Administration	3,770	3,565
Broadcasting	576	1,191
Other Team Expenses	2,628	3,483
Professional & Consultants	2,671	4,332
Commissions	3,722	3,705
Other	7,951	6,890
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**72,996**	**88,124**

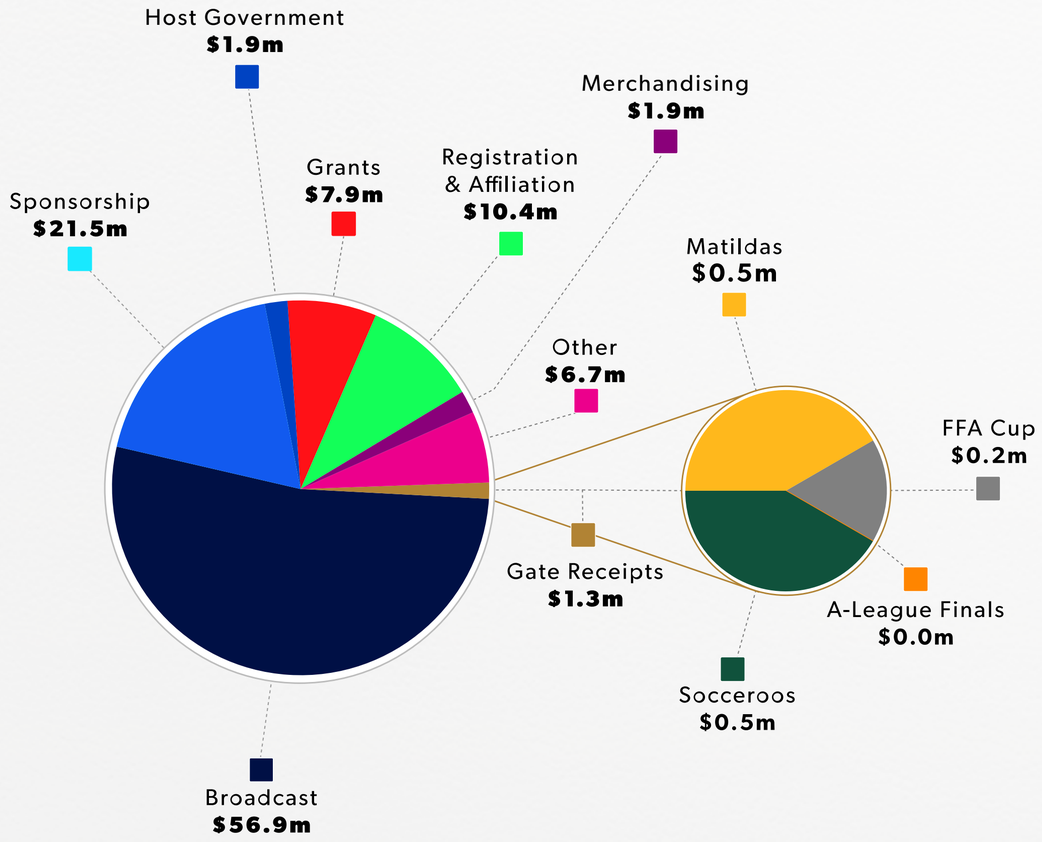
SUMMARISED PROFIT & LOSS ($'000)	2020	2019
OPERATING SURPLUS (before Grants & Distributions)	**35,515**	**44,044**
Grants & Distributions	37,336	43,612
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	**(1,821)**	**433**

SUMMARISED BALANCE SHEET EXTRACT ($'000)		
Total Assets	43,033	64,285
Total Liabilities	38,138	57,851
NET ASSETS	**4,896**	**6,434**

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

OPERATING REVENUE

Total revenue of $108.5m in FY2020 has decreased in comparison to FY2019 ($132.2m). Revenue comprises the following key categories:



- **Broadcast**
  ($5.6m decrease from FY2019)

  This category comprises the domestic and international broadcast rights to FFA competitions (A-League, W-League and FFA Cup) along with Socceroos and Matildas friendlies. The significant decrease is mostly attributable to the loss of FTA broadcast rights income.

- **Sponsorship**
  ($7.1m decrease from FY2019)

  This includes all sponsorship revenue in both cash value and non-cash value in kind. The decrease is attributable to the expiry of various large contracts including Caltex, ALDI, NAB and Harvey Norman during the year.

- **Gate Receipts**
  ($4.9m decrease from FY2019)

  Gate receipts revenue was received across Socceroos, Matildas, A-League Finals Series and FFA Cup matches. This reduction was attributable to the postponing of three Socceroos World Cup Qualifiers and the A-League Finals Series into FY2021 due to COVID-19. FY2019 also included two friendly matches, whilst FY2020 included one World Cup Qualifier. Gate receipts from Matildas matches and FFA Cup matches was consistent with FY2019.

- **Host Government**
  ($0.7m decrease from FY2019)

  This category includes revenue received from various state governments to secure the rights to host Socceroos and Matildas matches. This decrease is attributable to the World Cup Qualifiers which were set to take place in FY2020 being postponed due to COVID-19.

- **Grants**
  ($2.6m decrease from FY2019)

  FFA receives grants for specific purposes from sources including various government departments, the Australian Sports Commission, FIFA and AFC. The reduction in FY2020 in comparison to FY2019 is due to additional grants being received from FIFA and the AFC during FY2019 in relation to the Women's World Cup.

- **Prize money**
  ($1.4m decrease from FY2019)

  Prize money received in FY2019 relates to Matildas performance in the FIFA World Cup. With no major tournaments taking place in FY2020, this revenue stream has decreased to nil revenue.

- **Registration & Affiliation**
  ($0.1m decrease from FY2019)

  This category includes National Registration Fees, competition fees for various courses (coaching, refereeing accreditation, MiniRoos, FFA Cup) and license fees for certain A-League clubs. The decrease from FY2019 is attributable to less revenue being received from National Registration Fees as well as coaching education in light of the COVID-19 pandemic suspending activity at varying levels across Australia.

- **Merchandising Revenue**
  ($0.6m decrease from FY2019)

  FFA centralises the management of the official merchandising programs across the A-League, W-League and national team products. The decrease is attributable to a reductions in merchandise sales.

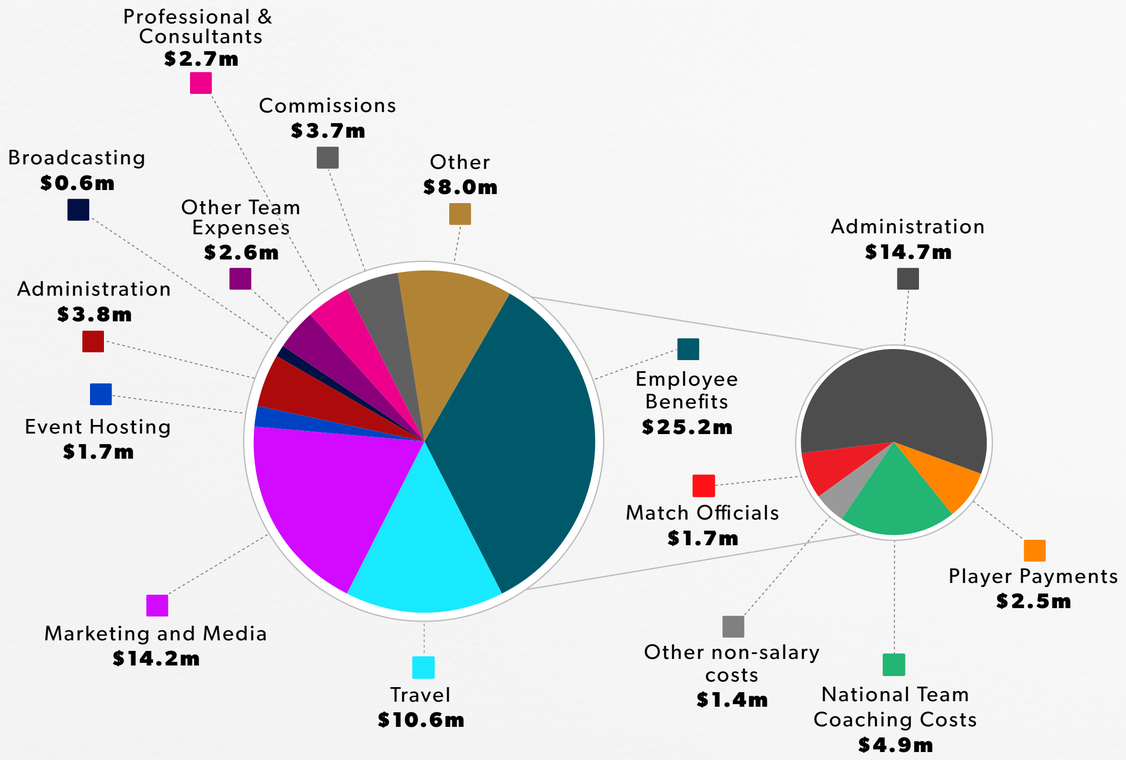
- **Other**
  ($0.3m increase from FY2019)

  All other revenues not captured under specific categories are allocated to Other Revenue. Significant items include sanctioning fees for visiting international club matches, betting royalties and insurance recoveries on the centralised insurance program procured on behalf of A-League clubs. The increase from FY2019 is attributable to the Federal Government's JobKeeper initiative which FFA was eligible for.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenditure of $73m in FY2020 is a $15m reduction on FY2019 operating expenditure ($88.1m). The key elements comprising operating expenditure are as follows:



- **Employee and Team Benefit Expenses**
  ($3.4m decrease from FY2019)

  This decrease is attributable to a decrease in Socceroo player payments as the World Cup Qualifiers were postponed. Additionally, as activity was suspended across the business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant portion of FFA staff were stood down.

- **Travel Expenses**
  ($2.5m decrease from FY2019)

  This decrease is a result of additional travel, accommodation and associated costs incurred for the 2019 Women's World Cup for the Matildas in FY2019. Additionally, from March-20 to June-20 several operations were suspended due to COVID-19 which saw no travel take place in this period. Of the FY2020 total, $5.7m is attributable to National Teams activities, $3.4m relates to the delivery of the domestic competitions (including funding the travel costs for A-League, W-League and Y-League teams) with the balance incurred across implementation of the pathway, coach education, stakeholder relations, international engagement and 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Bid operating (which is fully funded by Government).

- **Marketing and Media**
  ($4.7m decrease from FY2019)

  This account category in FY2019 largely included the recognition of the marquee fund of $3m for the A-League which was a part of the Fox Sports broadcast deal. In FY2020, this arrangement was no longer in place making up a large portion of the overall decrease in marketing and media spend. The remaining decrease relates to costs which were no longer spent in relation to the Socceroos World Cup Qualifiers which were postponed.

- **Event Hosting**
  ($2.5m decrease on FY2019)

  This category includes expenses incurred in delivering matches across Socceroos, Matildas, A-League and W-League Finals Series as well as the FFA Cup Final. With only one Socceroos home match and no A-League Finals Series in FY2020 due to COVID-19, these expenses decreased significantly year on year.

- **Administration**
  ($0.2m increase on FY2019)

  This allocation includes corporate overheads such as office rental, depreciation, utilities and legal fees. While a number of costs in this allocation decreased with activity being suspended across FFA in FY2020, this was offset by the addition of costs related to the unbundling of the Leagues from FFA.

- **Broadcasting Expenses**
  ($1.4m decrease from FY2019)

  This decrease reflects additional spend around broadcasting required or the Westfield Women's League double headers which took place in FY2019 and not incurred in FY2020. This decrease was offset by FFA incurring acquisition costs from other Member Associations for the broadcast rights of the World Cup Qualifier away matches.

- **Other Team Expenses**
  ($0.9m decrease from FY2019)

  This decreases comprises Socceroos team expenses which were not incurred as activity was suspended in the second half of FY2020 due to COVID-19.

- **Professional and Consultants**
  ($1.6m decrease from FY2019)

  This category includes external expertise engaged across several areas including audit, A-League expansion, MiniRoos inventory management, security and technology. The decrease is mainly attributable to FY2019's balance consisting of consultants engaged regarding the Leagues unbundling and expansion for the A-League along with less general consulting expenses being incurred as business activity was suspended for a large portion of FY2020.

- **Commissions**
  (Consistent year on year)

  These expenses primarily represent the accounting recognition of sponsorship contra along with contracted servicing costs for sponsors and broadcasters. The cost of the external management of the centralised merchandising program is also allocated to this category. Expenses in this area have been consistent year on year.

- **Other Expenses**
  ($1m increase from FY2019)

  This amount relates to IT costs, insurance and other miscellaneous costs incurred by FFA. The increase in FY2020 is largely attributable to an increase in insurance premiums and incremental increases in digital costs.

- **Grants and Distributions Expenses**
  ($6.3m decrease from FY2018)

  This decrease represents the decrease in distributions to the Member Federations and A-League teams in light of the suspension of business activity caused from the COVID-19 pandemic.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

GRANTS & DISTRIBUTIONS

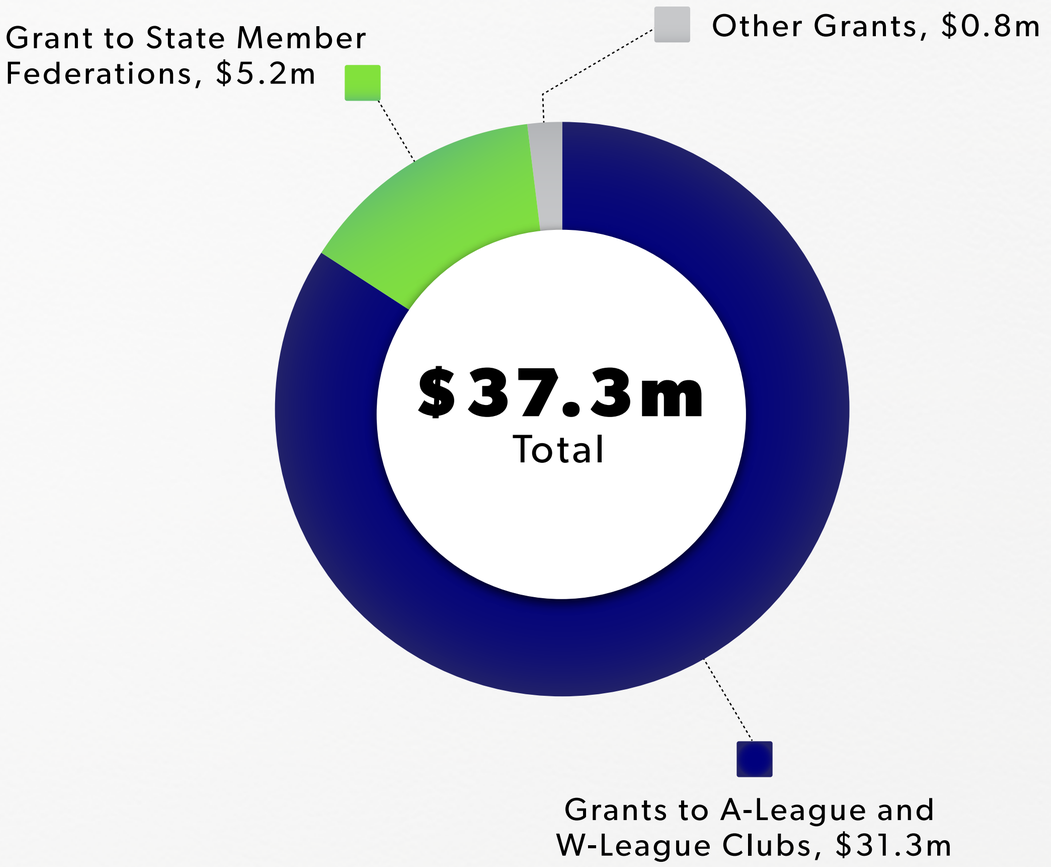
Total grants and distributions of $37.3m in FY2020 is a decrease from FY2019 ($43.6m). The key elements comprising grants and distributions are as follows:

The FFA provides annual distributions to Clubs competing in the A-League and Westfield W-League and financially supports a variety of programs administered by the State Member Federations.

- **Distribution to Clubs**
  Base cash distributions to A-League clubs reduced in FY2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included no grants being paid out in April and May 2020 and reduced grants in June in preparation for the A-League season resumption. Also included in grants is Wagering/Merchandising distributions, W-League grants and Y-League travel subsidies.

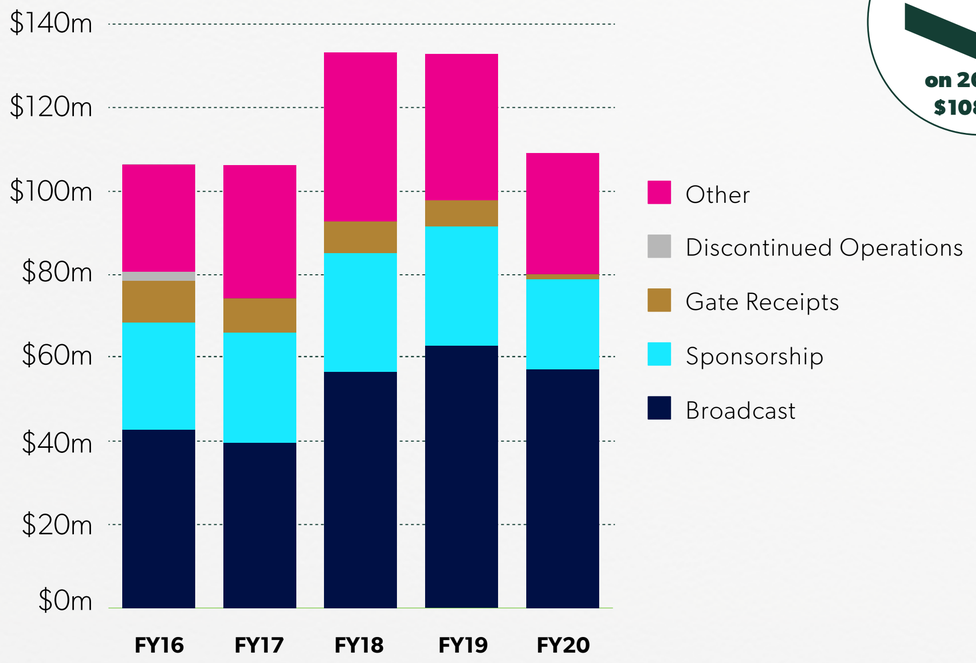
- **Distribution to Member Federations**
  With the suspension of football across Australia from the COVID-19 pandemic, distributions to Member Federations were put on hold and eventually revised for the year.

- **Other Grants**
  A small number of programs managed via International Affairs and Government Relations.

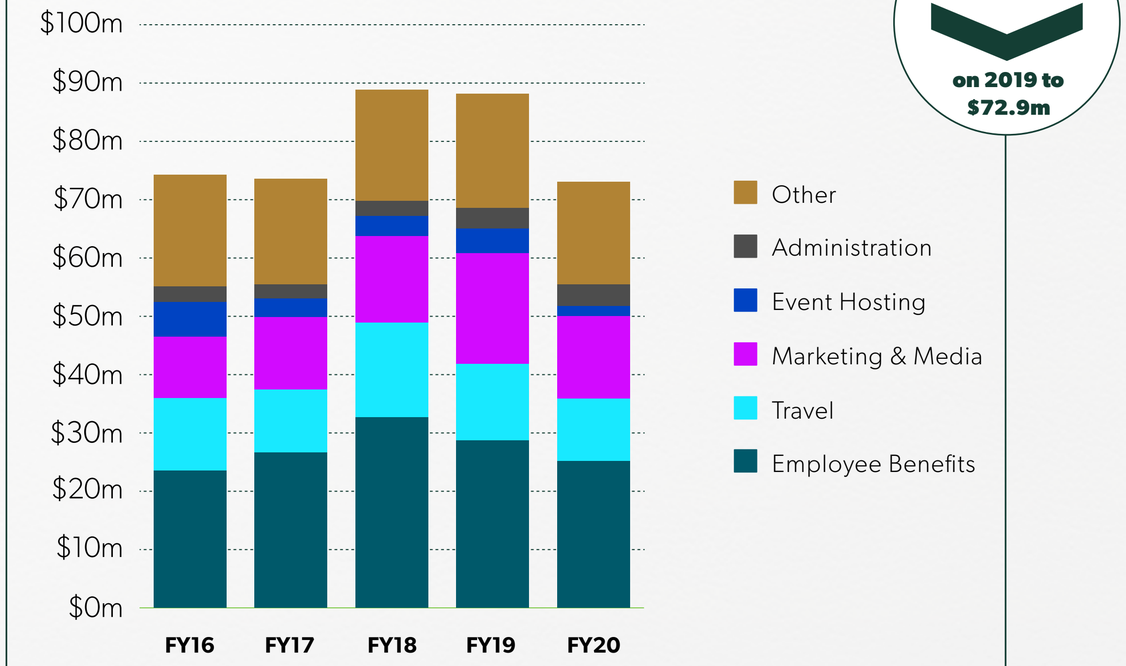


KEY HISTORICAL FINANCIAL COMPARATIVES

OPERATING REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES

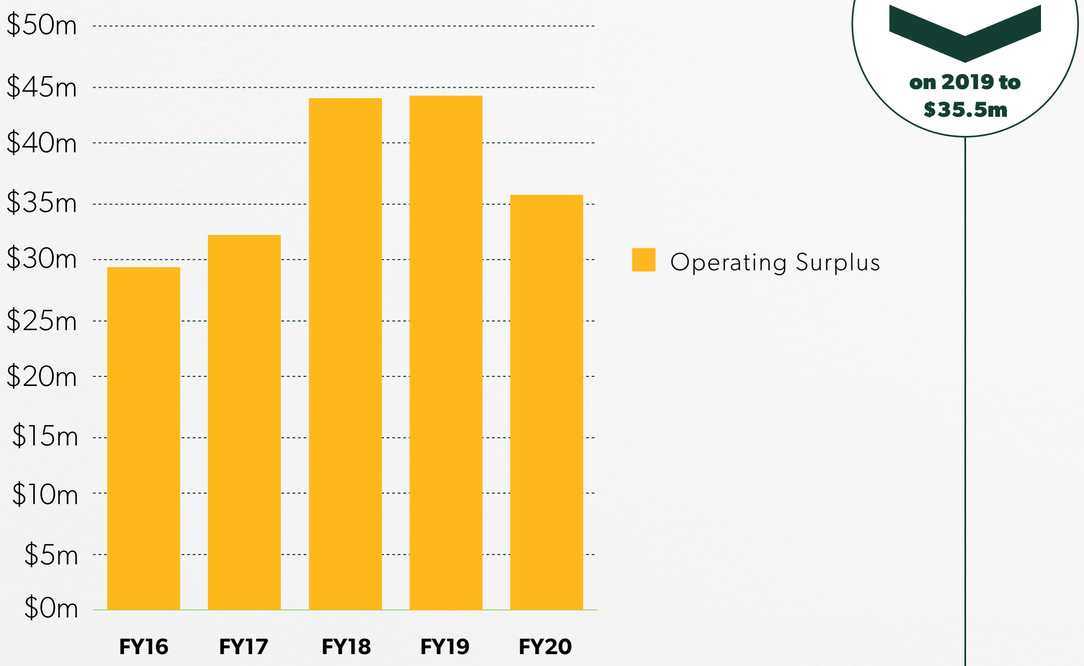


FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

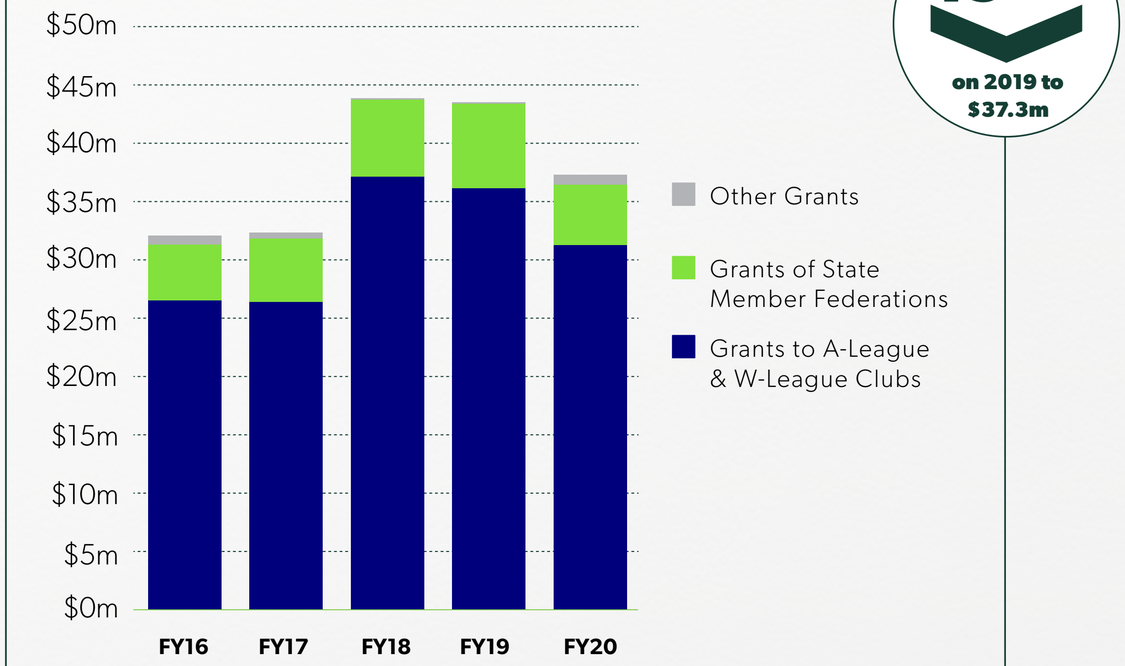
OPERATING SURPLUS

BEFORE GRANTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

OPERATING SURPLUS

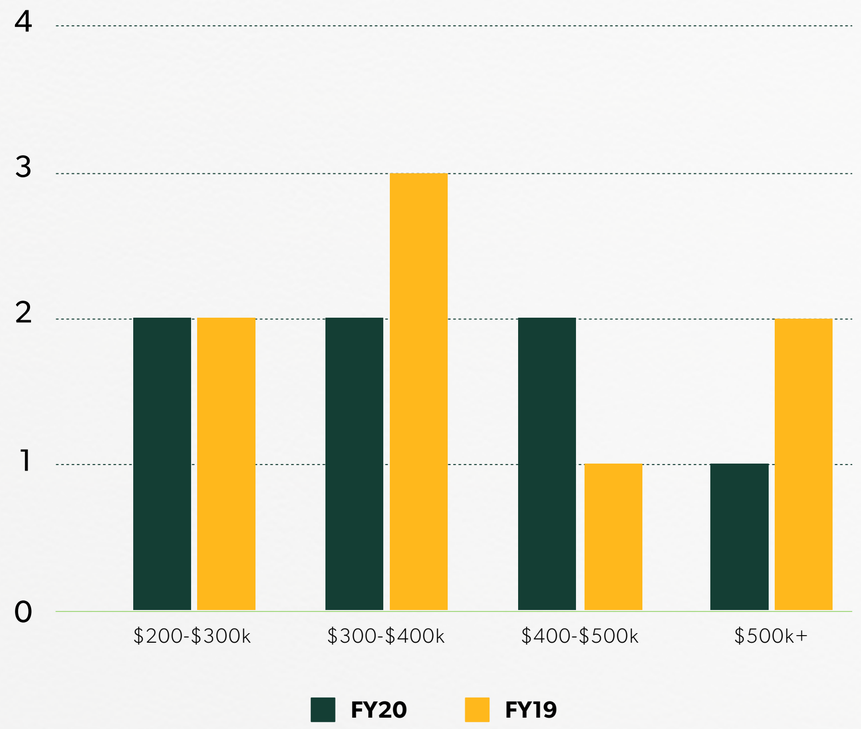


GRANTS & DISTRIBUTIONS

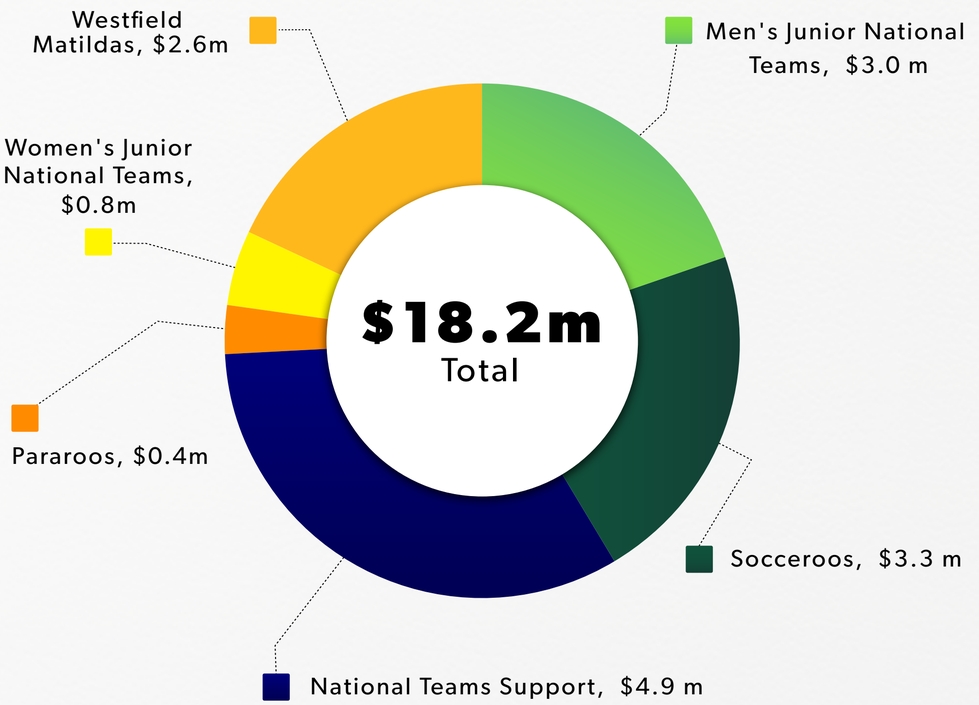


FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

NUMBER OF KMP WITHIN SALARY BRACKETS



NATIONAL TEAMS EXPENDITURE



* The above disclosure excludes key management personnel that departed the organisation during the period.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

STRATEGY REPORT

XI PRINCIPLES

FOR THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL

On 2 July 2020, Football Federation Australia ('FFA'), published its discussion paper, *XI Principles for the future of Australian football* ('XI Principles'), which outlined 11 proposed principles to underpin the future development and growth of football in Australia and act as a stepping stone towards a united direction for the game and forming a strong foundation for a new strategic agenda for Australian football. The Principles were compiled over the first half of 2020 and then captured in the discussion paper which was published as a 'living document' that would continue to be refined as FFA used it as a focal point for engagement and discourse amongst the Australian football community.

Following the launch of the XI Principles, FFA undertook a rigorous process of consultation and engagement to continue to grow the document. The process provided Australian football's rich and diverse football community with an opportunity to have a say in the future of Australian football.

FFA conducted 24 consultations with various stakeholder groups with each providing a unique perspective into the current state of the game in Australia. Consultations were conducted with all full FFA Congress Members, including: Nine (9) Member Federations; The Australian Professional Football Clubs Association ('APFCA'); Professional Footballers Australia ('PFA'); and the Women's Football Council. Key stakeholders from within the Australian football ecosystem were also consulted, including:

(a) FFA's Starting XI

(b) The Association of Australian Football Clubs ('AAFC')

(c) Football Coaches Australia ('FCA')

(d) Representing referees and match officials, the FFA Referees Committee and Professional Football Referees Association

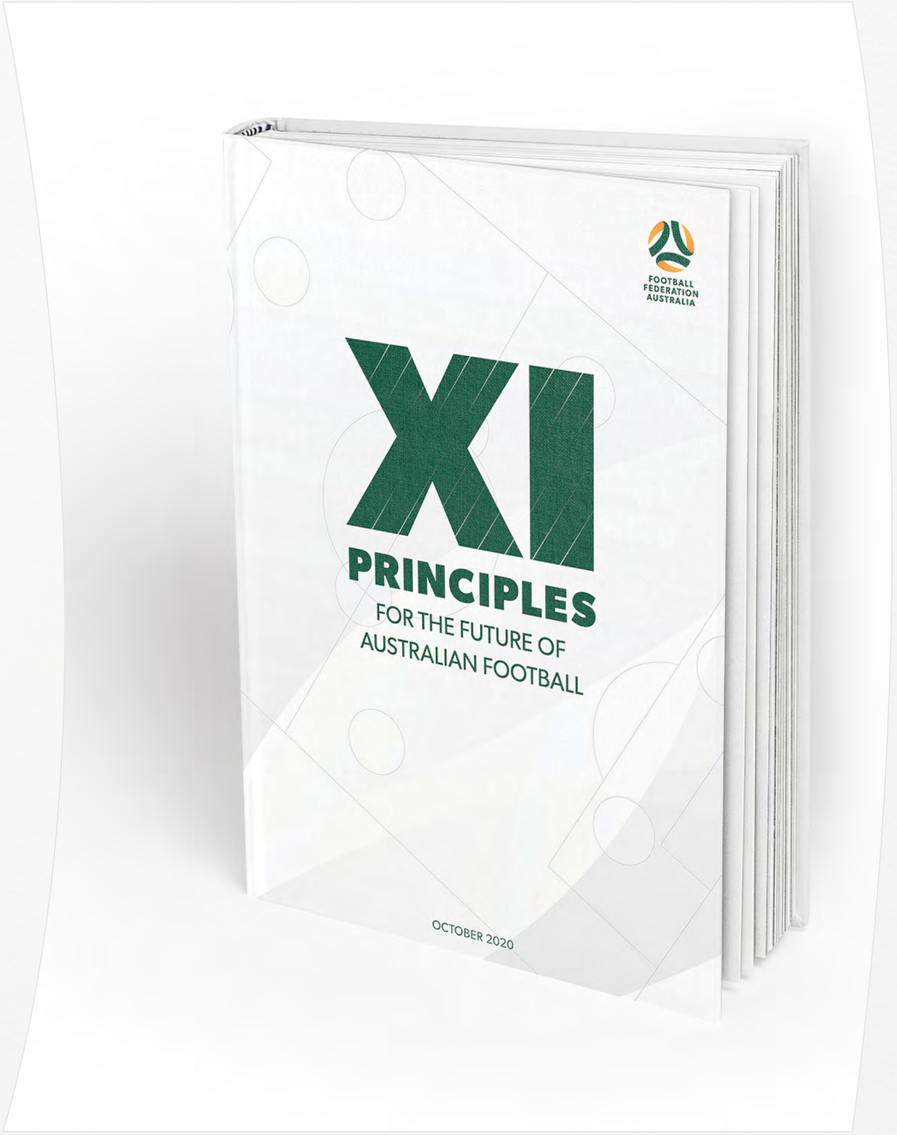
(e) Women Onside

(f) Women in Football

(g) The Golden Generation

(h) Futsal representatives from Member Federations

(i) Sport Australia



FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

In parallel, FFA conducted a series of online surveys on each Principle so that the Australian football community could provide direct input and share their views with FFA. The surveys, which were open between 6 July and 5 August 2020, yielded over 3,100 responses.

There were several themes which were raised consistently throughout the consultation process that are worth considering in further detail.

What the Australian football community said

There were several themes which were raised consistently throughout the consultation process.

Strong support for the XI Principles and the need for a clear direction in Australian football

Overall, the XI Principles were received extremely positively with stakeholders and the football community expressing general support and excitement for the XI Principles. FFA received a broad range of feedback from the look, feel and tone of the discussion paper, to more complex discussions around the overall governance and administration of the game. A good majority of survey respondents indicated that they 'welcomed' the launch of the XI Principles and that they were 'excited' by the vision for what Australian football might look like in 15 years' time.

There was also strong sentiment that Australian football was in great need for a clear direction which unites and inspires the entire game. The XI Principles provides an excellent platform for such a direction to be developed in consultation with the games' stakeholders and the broader Australian football community. Central to this, will be the need for clarity in roles and responsibilities of all the game's stakeholders and a united approach to ensuring the game unlocks its true potential.

Closer and more direct links to community and a more connected game

There was a common sentiment from the consultations that FFA had, in recent times, adopted an elitist approach to the way in which the game was administered and that this was also reflected in the tone and sentiment of the document. Those which provided feedback emphasised that, although important, FFA placed a significant amount of focus on National Teams and the professional leagues and historically, had not been able to strike the appropriate balance with the rest of the football ecosystem. There was also a strong desire for FFA to engage more closely and have increased presence at the community and grassroot levels of football.

'Community' was highlighted as a central theme to the identity and narrative of Australian football.

There was a strong desire that the multicultural heritage and diversity of the Australian football community be reflected throughout all of the Principles to ensure that they resonate with all areas of the football ecosystem including parents, volunteers and young people who play the game. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring that more is done to engage with Indigenous, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and LGBTIQ+ communities.

Many felt that Australian football now has an excellent opportunity to reset and reconnect the game via aligned competition structures. A stronger connection, recognition and celebration of the Australian football community, and its heritage, was also highlighted as being vital to uniting the game.

Overwhelming acknowledgement of the need for transformation in Australian football

An overwhelming number of respondents to the surveys told us that they believed Australian football needs transformation. This sentiment was also echoed throughout the consultations by many stakeholders and while COVID-19 was highlighted as bringing to light some of the major concerns with the current structure of Australian football, there was widespread recognition that broader transformation is timely and needed.

The transition towards a 'One Football' framework was emphasised through the consultations as a priority for Australian football. This was supported by a strong desire for FFA to lead in this space and to deliver in a timely manner.

The second iteration of the XI Principles

The feedback received by FFA through the consultation process, where possible, was reflected in the second and final iteration of the paper which built on the 'living document' published in early July 2020, and represents the culmination of a thorough consultation process over four weeks, followed by a period of consolidating, testing and implementing various aspects of the XI Principles.

The XI Principles take a holistic view of Australian football and the challenges facing it. It represents the strategic agenda for Australian football and replaced the Whole of Football Plan published in May 2015. Importantly, it establishes an excellent platform for Australian football to develop an exciting and new strategic direction for Australian football.

It should also be noted that the language in those Principles marked with an asterisk below have been updated following the consultation process. These Principles still maintain the essence of their original intent however, some wording has been changed to reflect the feedback received by FFA.

THE XI PRINCIPLES

I	Build a consistent and strong identity for Australian football which inspires all Australians
II	Develop a new narrative for football which signifies a fresh start for the game in Australia, successfully ties together all new initiatives and distinguishes it from other sporting codes in the country
III	Evolve and grow an integrated and thriving football ecosystem driven by a modern domestic transfer system
IV	Ensure the Australian Football pyramid is aligned and connected through optimised competition structures
V	Create a world class environment for youth development / production by increasing match minutes for youth players and streamlining the player pathway
VI	Create a strong culture around coach and referee development by emphasising the importance of the role as a skilled position and a vital link in player development
VII	Transition towards a modern, fit-for-purpose governance framework for football in Australia in line with global standards and best-practice sports governance in Australia
VIII	Create an operating and governance model for the A-League, W-League and Y-League which is fit for the current circumstances
IX	Ensure that football becomes more open and accessible to the Australian community and that cost does not remain a barrier to participation
X	Accelerate and enhance the growth of the game by driving participation of women and girls and enhancing existing competition structures to promote player development
XI	Elevate even further the Westfield Matildas and the Socceroos as the unifying symbols of the game and heroes who epitomise the Australian football identity to inspire every young Australian regardless of their ability or background

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPLE I

Build a consistent and strong identity for Australian football which inspires all Australians.

Australian football is a melting pot of 2 million participations represented by over 200 different cultures. We are the most diverse and globally connected sport within the Australian sporting landscape. It is a complex and layered environment which is made up of the game's administrative bodies in addition to the near 2,400 community clubs across the country and our dedicated volunteer community of over 2,300 people across the country. This Principle focuses on the need for the Australian football community, with references to the game's inherent diversity including Indigenous heritage, CALD and LGBTIQ+ communities to be reflected in the Australian football identity. The need for a distinct playing style which is authentic and highlights the qualities of Australian footballers is also emphasised.

PRINCIPLE II

Develop a new narrative for football which signifies a fresh start for the game in Australia, successfully ties together all new initiatives and distinguishes it from other sporting codes in the country.

'Community' is emphasised as being central to the Australian football narrative. From the game's multicultural history and its broad participation base, to the success of all national teams, these stories but communicated, shared, and celebrated. Furthermore, the Australian narrative should resonate with all parts of the community, particularly our youth. This Principle emphasises the need for the Australian football narrative to resonate with all member of the football community, particularly our youth. It also recognises that Australian football is in an opportune moment to advance a new and bold narrative which builds trust, shifts sentiment, and fosters good will for the new trajectory of football in Australia.

PRINCIPLE III *

Evolve and grow an integrated and thriving football ecosystem driven by a modern domestic transfer system.

The global football economy, driven by football's global transfer system, has evolved over many years. Australia has largely underperformed in the international transfer market (for men) meaning it has significantly less than its counterparts to invest back into the domestic football economy for the continued production of Australian players. Principle III highlights the need, firstly to raise understanding and awareness of the international transfer system and secondly, for Australian football to implement a fully-functioning, modern, domestic transfer system evolve and grow an integrated and thriving Australian football ecosystem.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPLE IV *

Ensure the Australian Football pyramid is aligned and connected through optimised competition structures.

COVID-19 has had a drastic impact on Australian football and will place significant pressure on the game's ability to invest in and promote football across all levels. Principle IV highlights the imperative for Australian football to re-imagine its products in this new landscape and, in particular, refocus on its 'football core' to reset and rebuild its products to increase accessibility, attractiveness, fan engagement, viewership, improve marketability and overall appeal of Australian football products. It is also recognised that futsal, beach soccer and schools' programs remain largely untapped opportunities for Australian football. Significant emphasis has been placed on reconnecting the football pyramid via the creation of a national football calendar and the realignment of Australian football competitions.

PRINCIPLE V

Create a world class environment for youth development / production by increasing match minutes for youth players and streamlining the player pathway.

Several internal studies have highlighted the player production challenge and opportunities facing Australian football today. Principle V highlights the need to create world class environments for youth development and production via streamlined player pathways and increased opportunities for match minutes. It also highlights the need to review Australia's current technical approach to build a deeper understanding of the player production ecosystem in Australian football. As Australian football looks to grow its participation base and excel at international level, it is vital that players are able to play as many match minutes as possible to promote their enjoyment of the game and enhance their development without.

PRINCIPLE VI *

Create a strong culture around coach and referee development by emphasising the importance of the role as a skilled position and a vital link in player development.

High quality coaches are essential to the youth development process. Additionally, referees and match officials are recognised as vital contributors to the overall quality of matches. Principle VI emphasis the need to create a strong culture around coach and referee development by emphasising the importance of the role as a skilled position and a vital link in player development. To do so, this Principle proposes a deeper understanding of coach and referee development as well as increased opportunities for further training and growth.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPLE VII

Transition towards a modern, fit-for-purpose governance and administration framework for football in Australia in line with global standards and best-practice in Australia.

Football in Australia operates through a model which has evolved over time to consist of several layers of administration. The purpose and responsibilities of each layer of administration within football's structure have blurred over time, creating inefficiencies, and impacting effectiveness in the administration of the game across the country. COVID-19 has also highlighted the urgent need for transformation towards a modernised framework that better serves the game today. Principle VII advocates for a transition towards a 'One Football' framework to protect and enhance the best interests of football and our community.

PRINCIPLE VIII

Create an operating and governance model for the A-League, W-League and Y-League which is fit for the current circumstances. A major challenge for Australian football's professional leagues remains how best to effectively capitalise on football's market advantage as Australia's largest club-based participation sport and to convert a good portion of the game's 2 million participations into 'fans'. The success of the professional leagues is critical to the ongoing growth of the game and there is strong support across the football ecosystem to see them continue to grow and thrive. Principle VIII emphasises the need to consider a new model for the professional clubs to operate the professional leagues in the context which the game finds itself in today.

PRINCIPLE IX

Ensure that football becomes more open and accessible to the Australian community and that cost does not remain a barrier to participation.

There are conflicting views in relation to the cost of football in Australia. On one hand, the cost of football is seen to be prohibitive and acts as a barrier for entry, particularly in regional areas and for Indigenous communities, where players often have to bear additional traveling costs to compete in tournament or elite competitions and training programs. On the other, it has been acknowledged that in the case of grassroots and community football, the cost to play football, comparatively, is quite competitive and in many cases, provides greater value than other sports. Principle IX emphasises the need to develop a deeper and more accurate narrative in relation to the cost of football and ensure that accurate information is disseminated.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPLE X

Accelerate and enhance the growth of the game by driving participation of women and girls and enhancing existing competition structures to promote player development.

Women's football continues to grow rapidly both domestically and abroad. Principle X recognises this and seeks to turn Australian into the centre of women's football in the Asia-Pacific region by anchoring women's football centrally to the continued growth and development of Australian football. It also places a significant emphasis on creating and shaping an environment which promotes participation of women in football, particularly at senior leadership and decision-making levels. Implementing FFA's Women's Council's Business Case Plan will play a vital role in helping FFA bring this principle to life.

PRINCIPLE XI *

Elevate even further the Westfield Matildas and the Socceroos as the unifying symbols of the game and heroes who epitomise the Australian football identity to inspire every young Australian regardless of their ability or background.

The Westfield Matildas and Socceroos enjoy a unique standing amongst other national sporting teams in the Australian sporting landscape. Principle XI recognises this standing and outlines FFA's commitment to further elevating the status of our national teams and holding them up as the unifying symbols and heroes of Australian football and society at large.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Using the XI Principles as a platform for transformation

The XI Principles take a holistic view of Australian football and the challenges currently facing the game and deliberately only speak to the 'What' and the 'Why' of football in Australia. Its intention was to act as a focal point of discussion for the Australian football community by establishing a case for change and then a guiding principle, underpinned by various measures, to guide the future growth and development of Australian football.

The XI Principles has now replaced the Whole of Football Plan published in May 2015, and importantly, establishes an excellent platform for Australian football to develop an exciting and new strategic direction for Australian football as well as provide the impetus to crystalise ongoing matters and drive a fresh and exciting agenda.

There are some foundational matters in relation to building Australian football's identity and developing a complementary narrative (Principles 1 and 2) which must be addressed as a matter of priority. FFA will also however, commence some of the more strategic initiatives outlined in the XI Principles including the preliminary work required to kick start Australian football's transition towards a 'One Football' model.

FFA will now, in consultation and collaboration, with the game's stakeholders, begin the process of operationalising the XI Principles. Since its publication in October 2020, FFA has commenced the implementation of several key strategic initiatives across all XI Principles. FFA has moved into the 'Who', 'When', and the 'How', and will put significant work into bringing the XI Principles to life, in collaboration with the games' stakeholders, across the Australian football ecosystem.

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GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

With the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak developing in the early months of 2020, Australia's football stakeholders unified to establish the National COVID-19 Working Committee to monitor and address the threat of COVID-19 to football in Australia. The National COVID-19 Working Committee comprised of representatives from FFA, State and Territory Member Federations, Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League Clubs and Professional Footballers Australia.

As COVID-19 continued to evolve and with Federal Government restrictions being introduced, FFA through consultation with the National COVID-19 Working Committee and State and Territory Member Federations, made the difficult decision to suspend all sanctioned grassroots football activity in Australia. Following on from this, and as a result of stricter measures being imposed by Federal and State and Territory Governments, FFA's initial grassroots suspension was extended and remained in place until 31 May 2020.

In preparation for a return to play, FFA with the support of State and Territory Member Federations, collaborated with the Federal Government to develop COVID-19 Guidelines for football to ensure a safe return to play for football participants. FFA's COVID-19 Guidelines for football, along with the Federal Governments 'National Principles for the resumption of sport and recreation activities' were later utilised to inform State and Territory Member Federation COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines.

With the grassroots suspension in place, FFA partnered with the Australian Red Cross, lending its voice to Australian Red Cross' important work in supporting some of the most vulnerable caught up in the COVID-19 pandemic. As the largest club-based participation sport in the country with a participation base of approximately 1.96 million participants, FFA recognised that football has an important civic duty towards the collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The strength of our game lies in our community, and the partnership provided our stakeholders and participants with a link to the Australian Red Cross to contribute online and in other digital ways to support vulnerable Australians under the guidance of an expert partner in this field. In addition to this, FFA partnered with the internationally recognised Black Dog Institute to provide mental health education and support to the grassroots football community. The Black Dog

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Institute is recognised as a pioneer in the identification, prevention and treatment of mental illness, and the promotion of wellbeing. FFA also implemented numerous digital initiatives throughout the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, utilising the profile of its senior and youth national team players to create the 'Play at Home Challenge', while also delivering a series of educational webinars for the benefit of the football community focused around coaching, sports science, and engagement at community club level.

Although these proved to be challenging times for the football community and society more broadly, the football community showed that it could come together to collaborate and remain connected as a game. As Federal and State Government COVID-19 restrictions eased in all parts of the country (with the exception of Victoria), grassroots football resumed in its many formats. With the support of State and Territory Member Federations, our competition administrators and community club volunteers across the country worked tirelessly to implement 'COVID-19 Guidelines for Football' and modify competition formats so that football participants could complete a season in 2020. FFA would like to acknowledge and show support to our football community in Victoria and looks forward to working with all stakeholders to build a platform for a relaunch of community football in 2021.

With the support of Sport Australia through the Move it AUS – Better Ageing and Participation Grants, National Programs such as Walking Football and Women and Girls 'Football Your Way' Social Programs have been reinstated across the country. To celebrate the return of Walking Football, FFA appointed Socceroo great Paul Wade and foundation Westfield Matilda Dr Shona Bass as national Walking Football Ambassadors.

In collaboration with State and Territory Member Federations, Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League clubs, FFA has enhanced football's introductory programs to convert primary school students into football participants and fans of the game. Football's revamped programs are now standardised nationally to incorporate physical literacy into the MiniRoos session plans to deliver skills, knowledge and behaviours that give school children the confidence and motivation to lead active lives. To align with Sport Australia's Sporting Schools program objectives, football programs are now designed to enhance connections between schools and associated local community clubs to support a student's transition into club football participation. With football only servicing 7.5 per cent of schools nationally, FFA is collaborating with stakeholders to further evolve the national delivery model to extend, upskill and support the workforce to grow football's footprint in schools.

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TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Several key appointments were made into the technical staff in 2020. Joeys head Coach, Trevor Morgan was appointed interim Technical Director in August, along with Dr Ron Smith as Technical Advisor and soon after Junior Matildas Head Coach, Rae Dower was appointed as Women's Technical Advisor.

A major announcement was made in early October, with FFA appointing Tony Gustavsson as Matildas Head Coach, contracted to take the Westfield Matildas through the Tokyo Olympics, 2022 AFC Asian Cup, 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup and 2024 Paris Olympics.

Socceroos Head Coach - Graham Arnold engaged Socceroos Analyst - Doug Kors and Youth National Team Manager - James Duvcevski, to research issues around player progression and development, particularly in relation to players aged 17-23. Out of this came a detailed factual report called "Men's Performance Gap" which provides the basis for discussion around the current environment for young aspiring male footballers in Australia. Matildas staff, including Analyst – Kate Cohen also conducted research around the Westfield Matildas and the resulting "Women's Preformance Gap" report was also very informative on the current environment and implications on the future success of the Westfield Matildas. These have been shared with the FFA Starting XI and presented to key stakeholder groups.

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A key task involving a working group across all departments is the development of a:

- One Football Calendar – this will align all competitions from National Team activity in AFC/ FIFA windows, Junior National team camps and tournaments, Professional leagues, NPL and the possible future NSD, right through to grassroots and Coach development activities, in order to unite the game and target opportunities for Festival like connection of all levels of the game at specific times and venues

FFA Technical, National Teams and Coach Development started working together on projects aligned with the FFA XI Principles. Outlined below are 4 key tasks for the due for completion in mid 2021

- Coach Development evolution – revamping the C-Licences, utilising online learning to reach more people and reduce costs, as well as building better CPD options through peer mentoring and online webinars provided by Football Coaches Australia as part of the MOU with FFA (Principle VI)

- Building an effective online Talent ID system (Principle V)

- Developing structures and education around an Export Culture for player development leading to a better financial balance of professional football. This includes the development of a Domestic Transfer System, enhanced Academy Accreditation Criteria and education around use of the International Transfer system to incentivise investment in youth. (Principle III, IV, V, & VIII)

- Exploring and expressing an FFA DNA through consultation and visualised through video footage of National Teams. (Principle I & XI)

FIFA Talent Development Programme

Football Federation Australia is currently partaking in an extensive global analysis of our talent development pathways in partnership with FIFA. The worldwide project with 199 participating countries aims to map every country's talent development pathway and provide relevant and tailor-made technical support in 2021 and beyond to all participating Member Associations.

FFA completed an extensive online survey, participated in interviews of Technical Staff Members and shared relevant data to enable FIFA to better understand the Australian football landscape. Thirteen Academies throughout Australia were also analysed as part of this project, which included an in-depth analysis and video visit of three leading Academies and a light analysis via Survey of 10 additional Academies that tapped into Australia's broad variety of youth development pathways whilst considering a spread of geographical representation.

FFA, in collaboration with the nine Member Federations, provided digital resources to support players and coaches to stay connected with the Football Community during COVID-19.

Skills Hub & Rebooting Football Activities

The development of the 'Skills Hub' allowed players to attempt various fun challenges at home with three different difficulty levels to cater for the needs of all players to up-skill on the development of the four core skills. Players were encouraged to create their own extension activities and challenge their friends and team-mates to help them stay connected whilst refining their skills at home in readiness for a 'return to play.'

To support the work of coaches, FFA, together with our Member Federations, created 16 fun and simple activity ideas that adhered to the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Guidelines to support the work of community coaches throughout Australia. All our Member Federations made a contribution to the development of these activities, with a number of them providing digital content to bring the activities to life and share them on our digital platforms to support the work of all Australian coaches during these unprecedented times.

Coach Development

The impact of COVID-19 provided FFA's Coach Development Department with a vast array of new opportunities they could explore in the delivery of their coaching courses and CPD events. In collaboration with both Football Coaches Australia and the Australian Member Federations, FFA delivered a series of online PD Webinars throughout the COVID-19 period with presenters such as Socceroos Head Coach - Graham Arnold, FFA High Performance Coordinator – Andrew Clark, National Technical Director – Trevor Morgan, FFA's National Coach Education Manager - Sean Douglas, and Young Matildas Head Coach – Leah Blayney addressing topics specific to the day-to-day challenges and experiences facing both community and advanced coaches.

Components of Advanced coaching courses were delivered online for the first time with FFA 'B' Licenses in Canberra and Victoria as well as an FFA 'C' Senior License with Brisbane Roar players who were in hotel quarantine after the completion of their 2019/20 A-League season. A 2020 Australian Coaching Conference will be delivered online for 500+ coaches across the country by Football NSW, with FFA's support. FFA was able to engage Arséne Wenger, FIFA's Head of Global Football Development, as the headline presenter.

As part of the XI Principles, the FFA are excited to be running their first ever Female-Only 'B' License with Football Queensland as part of the commitment to increasing the number of female coaches within the game. Additionally, the Coach Development team are also exploring ways in which the barriers to education can be removed and courses can be made more accessible through avenues such as online learning.

rebel FEMALE FOOTBALL WEEK

In 2020, the rebel Female Football Week continued to be delivered nationally in collaboration with the Member Federations. March saw the concentration of activities from 8-15 March to promote and encourage the participation of women and girls in football across various sectors through events, workshops and gala days. The calendar of activities saw the involvement of thousands of women and girls.

Now an established part of the Australian football calendar, the week culminated in the rebel Female Football Round of the Hyundai A-League and the Westfield W-League Finals Series with the rebel Female Football Awards held on Friday 13 March in Sydney Shadeene Evans from Sydney FC received the prestigious rebel Role Model Award at the rebel Female Football Awards.

Shadeene was a member of the Sydney FC team that won the Westfield W-League 2019 championship and dedicates a significant amount of her personal time working within indigenous and female football communities. She has recently completed a residential program at UNSW to further her education in the social services space and will feature heavily in the club's community initiatives now and into the future.

The rebel Role Model Award recognises excellence both on and off the pitch. The selected player's influence on the game extends beyond her professional playing capacities, with a focus on community. This player embodies what it takes to be a professional footballer; someone who is not only dedicated on the pitch, but also supports and encourages growth of the game at all levels within the community. The winner is selected based on good sportsmanship and attitude, must have played for a Westfield W-League Club during the 2018/19 season and must be under 21 at the start of the season.

In addition to the rebel Role Model, nine other rebel Female Football Week National Awards were announced.

In the Member Federation Category, the Female Player of the Year was Sarah Denton from the Flinders Flames in Football South Australia; the Female Coach of the Year was Kelly Stirton, who coaches the Capital Football Women's Cerebral Palsy Team; the Female Administrator of the Year was Stephanie Garner from Football West; the Female Referee of the Year was Lottie Cabassi-Power from the Far South Coast Association of Football NSW; and the Member Federation Male Champion of the Year was Dave McWilliam from the Mindil Aces Club in Football Northern Territory.

In the Hyundai A-League/Westfield W-League Category, the Female Coach of the Year was Catherine Cannuli from Western Sydney Wanderers FC; the Female Administrator of the Year was Robyn Connor from Wellington Phoenix, Amanda Wetzel from the Newcastle Jets received the Female Fan of the Year award; and the Hyundai A-League/Westfield W-League Male Champion of the Year was Dan Barrett from the Central Coast Mariners.

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

An important focus of the Government relations effort during the year was working with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to secure hosting rights for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

The culmination of three years' work resulted in outstanding financial commitments from the Federal and six State Governments to host matches, a key element in FIFA's decision to award the 2023 tournament to Australia and New Zealand.

Federal Minister for Sport, Senator The Honourable Richard Colbeck was in the room with FFA for the historic announcement, and in one of the largest media events football has ever witnessed, he was later joined by federal Minister for Women and Foreign Affairs, Senator The Honourable Marise Payne; NSW Premier, The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP, Minister for Sport, The Honourable Dr Geoff Lee MP and Minister for Tourism, The Honourable Stuart Ayres MP, to celebrate the success.

The tremendous support of Governments at all levels is much appreciated by FFA, and without this help and assistance, football as we know it would not exist in this country. The relationships forged over many years continue to strengthen and the development of these partnerships allow our game to flourish.

This was exemplified in early 2020, when work with the Federal, State and Local Governments enabled the organisation, at very short notice, of the Women's Olympic Football Tournament Asian Third Round Qualifiers.

Originally scheduled for Wuhan, China, the four-team tournament was moved to NSW due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with six matches played over eleven days at Campbelltown Stadium and Bankwest Stadium, Parramatta.

The Westfield Matildas capitalised on home-field advantage to top the group that included China, Chinese Taipei and Thailand, and ultimately qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Engagement and negotiation with Governments is always key in securing agreements and venues for

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international matches and tournaments in Australia, and this will become even more important as we deliver the vision as outlined in the XI Principles for the future of Australian football.

This highlights the need to increase the number of meaningful national team matches and tournaments at all age groups to maximise player exposure and capture the hearts and minds of fans, and we look forward to increasing the opportunities for football fans to see the best players in the world in our own backyard.

Discussions with the Federal and State Governments were instrumental in seeing the successful conclusion of the Hyundai A-League 19/20 season, following the enforced break due to the coronavirus.

As Governments battled the impact of COVID-19, we were able to navigate an ever-changing world of border restrictions, quarantine regulations and matchday and training protocols, to complete 27 regular season matches and five finals series games, all but one played in NSW.

Governments at federal, state and local levels continued their support of community football with investment across the board during the past year, with some significant infrastructure projects underway and in the planning stage. Homes of Football in Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, and the ACT were all recipients of Government funding, and many grassroots clubs and facilities projects benefitted from direct investment.

Federal Government grant funding allows FFA to offer a wide range of football programming outside of the traditional eleven-a-side game. This includes Walking Football, funded through Sport Australia's Move it Aus – Better Ageing fund; Football Your Way female football programs through Move it Aus – Participation; and Multicultural MiniRoos supported by Strong And Resilient Communities funding from the Department of Social Services.

FFA also partners with the Federal Government and the John Moriarty Foundation, which receives direct funding through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme Grant to offer football activities to Indigenous communities in Queensland and New South Wales.

With the FIFA Women's World Cup on the horizon, and the transformation of football underway, there's never been a more exciting time for our sport, and we look forward to fully engaging with Governments to deliver significant sporting, social and economic outcomes for the whole of Australian society.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

While COVID-19 posed challenges for the usual operation of FFA's International Relations activity, the year was characterised by a continued commitment to supporting the development and work of counterpart Member Associations across Asia and the Pacific, as well as furthering Australia's sports diplomacy efforts through the ongoing partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT).

The success of the #AsOne2023 bid with New Zealand for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 was significant and a huge positive note for the year. The winning bid received unanimous support from AFC, OFC, CONCACAF and CAF. Through DFAT, Australia's Ambassadors and High Commissioners across the globe used their platforms to promote Australia's credentials as potential hosts, and the country's longstanding commitment to gender equality.

At a continental football level, FFA continued its commitment to be a leading voice in global football, with Australians Tom Rischbieth, Trevor Morgan and Robbie Middleby appointed to the AFC Marketing Committee, Technical Committee and Development Committee, respectively. Their appointments took Australian representation on AFC Committees and Bodies to a total of 9.

Ongoing work to secure hosting rights for more AFC youth competitions in Australia saw FFA, following a competitive process, awarded rights for both the AFC U-19 Women's Asian Cup and the AFC U-16 Women's Asian Cup Round One Qualifiers. These will be hosted in Shepparton, VIC, and Cessnock, NSW, respectively.

While in person opportunities were limited, FFA still had the opportunity to engage with Member Associations across Asia and the Pacific.

FFA's Jane Fernandez and Sarah Walsh took part (virtually) in the Mongolian Football Federation's Female Player Pathway Workshop, which saw more than 100 female Mongolian football players listening and asking questions on post-career opportunities for players.

Former Westfield Matilda Ashleigh Sykes and FFA International Relations Manager Kieran Lilley travelled to New Caledonia to support the Australian Consulate General in Noumea with a series of activities to engage and empower women and girls. Activities included skills clinics for an Indigenous futsal team, a community group, and the New Caledonia U-16 Women's National Team, as well as meetings with government representatives.

Elsewhere in the Pacific, the Solomon Islands Football Federation announced an inaugural national league for women's football, off the back of August's Pacific Step Up tour involving the Westfield Junior Matildas, which saw the country's first women's international football fixture and ticketed attendance.

Finally, a feature length film showcasing the Westfield Junior Matildas' tour to the Pacific and football's work in the sports diplomacy field is in advanced stages of post-production and will be ready for public release soon.

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FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2023 BID

On 26 June 2020, the FIFA Council awarded Australia and New Zealand the hosting rights for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023™ (FWWC2023).

This was a moment that galvanised the football family and indeed the country. This could not have been achieved without the support of the Federal, State Governments.

It has been a long-term goal of FFA's to host the FWWC2023 and identified it as imperative to the growth of not only women's football but the growth of Australian Football as a whole.

In 2017, FFA launched the bid in partnership with the Federal Government at Parliament House. This signalled the start of a three-year campaign that captured the hearts and minds of the football family and galvanised our game.

The #GetOnside movement created significant momentum behind the bid resulting in over 800,000 people pledging their support. Bid ambassadors, from all parts of society, lent their voices to the campaign, amplifying the reach of the stories of football in Australia and the positive impact the FWWC2023 will have across the country and the region.

The FIFA Women's World Cup 2019™ France, set new records for the tournament with attendances of over 1 million and a broadcast audience of 1 billion. The success of this World Cup led to the FIFA President announcing the expansion of the FWWC2023 to 32 teams.

The expansion of the tournament provided the opportunity for Australia and New Zealand to come together As One to develop a compelling bid and to commit to delivering a Women's World Cup for the Asia-Pacific region.

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As FIFA's first co-confederation hosts, Australia and New Zealand are two truly multicultural nations, representing 200 cultures with over 300 languages spoken. We are the bridge between two confederations - Asia and Oceania, presenting a compelling proposition to FIFA to deliver a tournament of firsts.

- The first ever FIFA World Cup across confederation boundaries.
- The first FIFA Women's World Cup in the Asia-Pacific.
- The first FIFA Women's World Cup in the southern hemisphere.

The 'As One' bid presented 13 stadiums, 12 host cities and over 100 training sites. To support the infrastructure offering, the commercial opportunity of generating USD 165.7m in revenue led to the As One bid achieving the highest technical evaluation score.

The bid proposal was personally delivered to FIFA house on 13 December 2019 and in February 2019, a FIFA delegation conducted an inspection of three proposed Host Cities in both Australia and New Zealand. This was an excellent opportunity to bring the bid submission to life and was delivered to the highest level.

In the final days of the bid, several bidders withdrew from the race, leaving Australia/New Zealand and Colombia as the remaining contenders.

As the decision approached, FFA lit up the Sydney Opera House with football imagery featuring grass roots footballers, former and current Matildas with Sam Kerr back-flipping across the sails.

This will be a FIFA Women's World Cup for FIFA, For Football, For Players and Fans and for Women and girls. It will leave a legacy that will be profound and enduring.

The legacy from bidding for and hosting the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 has been a major focus from the start of the bid. FFA is committed to delivering a ground-breaking tournament that leaves a legacy for our game, our country, and the Asia-Pacific region.

FFA's legacy plan will focus on infrastructure, participation, high performance, international engagement and leadership and culture initiatives which will be achieved through a partnership approach with government and key stakeholders.

Principle X clearly states FFA's commitment to being the centre of women's football in the Asia-Pacific and to continue the growth of the game by leading with women and girls.

Hosting the FWWC2023 will continue the growth of the game by driving participation of women and girls and continue the trajectory towards reaching 50:50 in participation.

The journey towards 2023 has commenced and we look forward to having the football family and all of Australia with us, in the stands, as we welcome the world to celebrate As One.

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NATIONAL TEAMS

WESTFIELD MATILDAS

With the completion of the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019™, Australia's senior women's national football team, the Matildas, turned their attention to preparation for the third round of the AFC Women's Olympic Football Qualifiers in January 2020 – qualifiers for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The Westfield Matildas continued to show their popularity with a record crowd towards the back end of 2019 and in the early part of 2020 with several home matches on the road to Tokyo.

Under the management of Ante Milicic, Australia recorded wins over Chile and Asian compatriots Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Vietnam. International friendlies were secured to assist with preparations for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, however, the global COVID-19 pandemic forced the halt of international activity for the Westfield Matildas post-March 2020. Defender Jenna McCormick was the sole player to earn a Matildas cap in FY20, with McCormick (cap 205) making an emotional international debut against Chile in Sydney.

NOVEMBER 2019

Australia's final matches of 2019 saw Chile return to Australian shores as the Westfield Matildas accommodated the South Americans in a two-match friendly series for the second year running. Backed by the support of the NSW Government and Destination NSW, the newly opened Bankwest Stadium in Parramatta would play host to its first international football match. Meanwhile the support of the South Australian Government saw the Westfield Matildas head to Adelaide for the first time in 13 years for the second match.

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As in the past two years, fans flocked to watch Australia on home soil with both matches breaking records. 20,029 green and gold supporters – the biggest crowd ever for standalone women's football match in this country – watched as a Sam Kerr brace helped the Westfield Matildas to a 2-1 win. In Adelaide a 10,342 strong crowd at Coopers Stadium – the largest international women's football crowd in the city's history – were on hand to see Emily Gielnik smartly finish to provide a 1-0 win, ending the year on a high.

Off the pitch 2019 also finished positively with a world first Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the women's national team. The new CBA enshrined the values of gender equality and pay parity, with the Westfield Matildas and the Socceroos agreeing to receive equal share of National Team Generated Revenues.

JANUARY 2020

In the new year all eyes turned to AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers with Ante Milicic naming a 20-player squad to participate in the Group B against hosts China, Chinese Taipei and Thailand.

However, days out from flying to Wuhan, China, the Westfield Matildas were one of the first to feel the effects of what would become the global COVID-19 pandemic. Working closely with the AFC, the Chinese Football Association, the Australian Government and the NSW Government, the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers were relocated to Sydney in February 2020.

An eventful month concluded with the announcement of a three match international series with Rio 2016 Olympic bronze medallists Canada. The series would see the Westfield Matildas play away in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2020, with the Canadians heading to Australia in 2021 for a two match home series.

FEBRUARY 2020

- **Olympic qualifiers, announcement of USA matches**

February saw the Westfield Matildas host their first competitive football matches on home soil in over a decade. Campbelltown Stadium and Bankwest Stadium were the venues for Group B of the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifiers in early February.

Led by Caitlin Foord's second international hat-trick, Australia started their campaign with a confident 7-0 win over Chinese Taipei at Campbelltown Stadium. Also earning their way onto the scoreboard in the opener were Steph Catley, Hayley Raso, Sam Kerr and Katrina Gorry.

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The Westfield Matildas backed up three days later with a 6-0 win victory over Thailand. This time it was Emily van Egmond to lead the scoring with her first international hat trick. A Kyah Simon brace and Hayley Raso goal delighted the crowd on a wet night at Campbelltown Stadium. Playing in her own backyard, Campbelltown native Alanna Kennedy captained the team for the first time as Australia put themselves in the poll position to finish top of the group.

The final group game saw the qualifiers head to Bankwest Stadium a tight and tense encounter, the Westfield Matildas demonstrated their famous Never Say Die attitude as van Egmond produced a stunning late equaliser to send Australia through the Play-off round of qualification.

Following the conclusion of the third round of the Women's Olympic Qualifiers, FFA announced a home and away series of international friendlies against the defending World Champions, the USA. The first match would be away to the USA in April 2020 with the much-anticipated home match in Australia in 2021.

MARCH 2020
- Olympic qualifiers, secure Tokyo 2020

After finishing on top of Group B, Australia were fixtured to play Group A runners up, Vietnam, in a two match, home and away series. Partnering with the City of Newcastle, McDonald Jones Stadium once again welcomed the Westfield Matildas with over 14,000 fans cheering Australia to a 6-0 win. Captain Kerr (with a brace), Van Egmond, Chloe Logarzo and defensive stalwart Clare Polkinghorne ensured the Westfield Matildas would head to Vietnam with a solid first leg lead.

Despite an early stadium blackout, the second leg in Cam Pha, Vietnam started in the perfect manner with Kerr and Raso giving the Westfield Matildas an early lead. Australia went on to claim the second leg 2-1, with the 8-1 aggregate win seeing the Westfield Matildas qualify for their fourth Women's Olympic Football Tournament and second in succession.

Late March saw the effects of COVID-19 reach the rest of the world with the Tokyo Olympics postponed until July 2021.

APRIL 2020

Following the announcement of the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics, the global pandemic resulted in the rescheduling of the matches against Canada and the United States. It is anticipated that those away fixtures will be completed in 2021.

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SOCCEROOS

Australia's senior men's national football team, the Socceroos, commenced their quest to qualify for a fifth consecutive FIFA World Cup™ in the second half of 2019, playing the first four of eight Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Round 2 qualifiers on the road to Qatar 2022. Australia performed strongly under the guidance of Head Coach Graham Arnold, winning all four fixtures including three away from home and two in the notoriously challenging Middle East.

Australia's wins over Kuwait, Nepal, Chinese Taipei, and Jordan put the Socceroos in pole position to progress from Group B leading into 2020, however unfortunately for the green and gold there would be no matches played throughout the 2020 calendar year as AFC qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ ground to a halt due to the global effects of COVID-19.

Just one player – Harry Souttar – made a Socceroos debut throughout FY20, with Souttar (cap 606) making a significant impression in his first two fixtures for Australia. Against Nepal in Canberra and Chinese Taipei in Kaohsiung, Souttar scored an incredible four goals (a brace in each match) to positively announce himself as an international player of the future. Two players – Mathew Leckie and Mathew Ryan – earned the honour of captaining Australia throughout FY20. Leckie became the 61st captain of Australia's senior men's national football team when he wore the armband against Kuwait in Kuwait City, with Ryan becoming the 62nd skipper of the Socceroos a month later when he led the team out away to Chinese Taipei.

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SEPTEMBER 2019

A year after Graham Arnold oversaw his first window as Australia's new senior men's national team coach, Arnold took charge of the Socceroos' first game on the road to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. Following a week-long training camp in the United Arab Emirates, the Socceroos ventured to Kuwait City and recorded a comprehensive 3-0 victory against their hosts. The win was Australia's biggest ever FIFA World Cup™ qualifying victory away to a Middle Eastern opponent, with the goals on the night coming from Mathew Leckie (2) and Aaron Mooy (1).

OCTOBER 2019

A month after securing a perfect start to qualifying, the Socceroos returned to home soil as the journey to Qatar continued. Australia hadn't played at home since Tim Cahill's farewell match in November 2018, when the team defeated Lebanon 3-0 at ANZ Stadium in Sydney. Canberra was the scene for Australia's second match of AFC Group B Round 2 qualifying, and in the nation's capital Australia clinically defeated Nepal 5-0, in part thanks to a hat-trick from Jamie Maclaren and a debut double to Souttar. Two days after defeating Nepal, Australia jetted to Kaohsiung in Chinese Taipei and went on to record a comfortable 7-1 victory against their hosts. Doubles to Adam Taggart, Jackson Irvine, Souttar, and a fourth goal in two games to Maclaren, ensured Australia underlined its strong start to qualifying.

NOVEMBER 2019

Australia's final match of 2019 was held in Amman, Jordan – a city and country where the Socceroos had previously lost twice in FIFA World Cup™ qualifying (2012 and 2015). Australia had also been defeated by the Jordanians at the AFC Asian Cup™ in the United Arab Emirates earlier in 2019, so much was discussed by the media in the build-up regarding Jordan being a "bogey-side" for the Socceroos. However, on the 14th of November 2019 Australia produced an accomplished performance in Amman to silence the partisan crowd at the King Abdullah II Stadium. Adam Taggart's well-taken 13th minute strike, the highlight of an assured team display, lifted Australia to a 1-0 win and took the Socceroos' Group B record to 16 goals for, one against, from their first four matchdays.

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OTHER KEY MOMENTS

Aside from Australia's first four matches on the quest to Qatar 2022, there were several other key pieces of news related to the Socceroos throughout FY20.

- In early December 2019, Socceroos stalwart Mark Milligan announced his decision to retire from international football. Milligan was a member of four FIFA World Cup™ squads for Australia (2006, 2010, 2014, and 2018), and amassed an impressive 80 'A' international caps for his country between 2006 and 2019. Milligan also represented Australia at three AFC Asian Cups – winning one (2015) –, an Olympic Games (Beijing 2008), and a FIFA Confederations Cup™ (2017) throughout his exceptional international career. Milligan was the 56th captain of the Socceroos, and wore the armband on 19 occasions for the team.

- Also in December 2019, Australia was drawn in the 'South Zone' for the Copa America 2020 – a tournament the Socceroos had been invited by CONMEBOL to participate in as a guest nation. The news created significant interest in Australian football circles, with excitement that Australia would play group games in Argentina against Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay come June 2020. The Copa America 2020 was ultimately postponed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, however at the time of publication, FFA retains an invite for the rescheduled edition of the tournament to be held in mid 2021. FFA is likely to make further announcements regarding the Socceroos' participation in this tournament in early 2021, subject to FIFA World Cup™ qualifying scheduling and the global COVID-19 climate.

- In 2020, all of the Socceroos' matches on the road to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ were postponed due to COVID-19. In the second half of FY20 the Socceroos were due to play Kuwait (home – Perth), Nepal (away – Kathmandu), Chinese Taipei (home), and Jordan (home) in FIFA World Cup™ qualifying, before venturing to Argentina to contest the Copa America 2020. It is hoped and envisaged that the Socceroos will return to match action in 2021.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

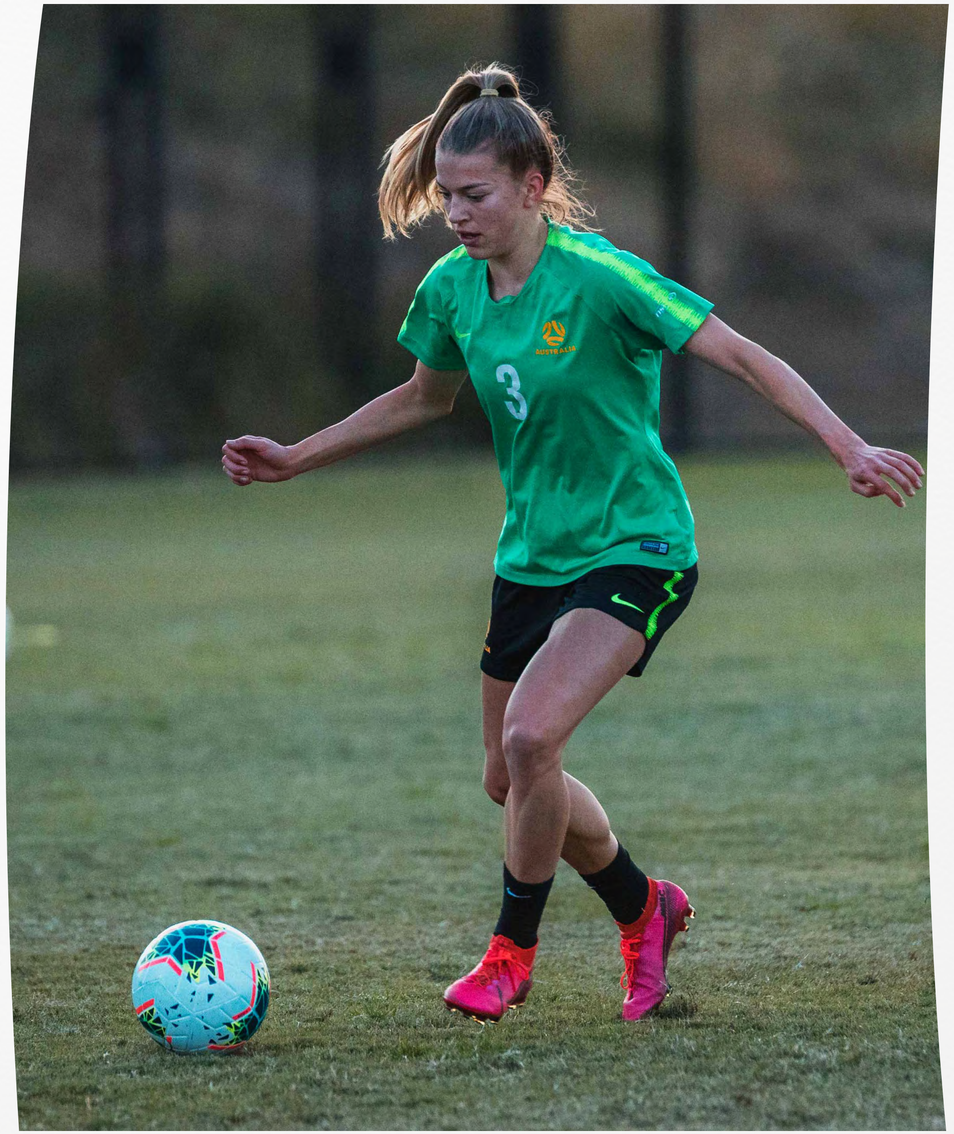
REPRESENTING AUSTRALIA

U-20 WOMEN'S
WESTFIELD YOUNG MATILDAS

Having secured qualification for the 2019 AFC U-19 Women's Championship in October 2018 in Beirut, Lebanon, the Westfield Young Matildas ventured to Chonburi, Thailand for the tournament proper in October 2019. Drawn in Group A, Australia commenced the tournament with a defeat to DPR Korea, before bouncing back in the following two group games against hosts Thailand and Vietnam to win 3-1 and 1-0 respectively. Throughout the group phase, some of the rising stars of Australian women's football etched their names on the scoresheet, including Kyra Cooney-Cross (1 goal), Mary Fowler (2 goals), and Courtney Nevin (1 goal).

Having finished second in their section behind DPR Korea, Leah Blayney's squad advanced to the knockout phase of the tournament, where the team's target to reach the 2020 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup™ in Costa Rica was still alive. Up against Japan (semi-final) and Korea Republic (third-place match) Australia struggled in the knockout phase, losing comprehensively in both fixtures. The defeats underlined the work that needs to be done by Australia to bridge the gap to elite Asian and European female youth opposition over the coming years.

Following the completion of the Westfield W-League 2019/20 season, many of Australia's best and brightest U-20 female footballers re-joined the Future Matildas program in Sydney. The program – which is a collaborative initiative established to provide a tailored training environment to some of Australia's most talented young female footballers – ran between July and October 2020 after suffering a delayed start in the second half of FY20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

U-17 WOMEN'S
WESTFIELD JUNIOR MATILDAS

Like the Westfield Young Matildas, FY20 represented an AFC tournament period for the Westfield Junior Matildas. In preparation for the competition – which like the older age group was also held in Chonburi, Thailand – the Westfield Junior Matildas embarked on a three-match tour of the Pacific, becoming the first Australian national football team to visit the Oceania region since the Socceroos in 2005. Throughout August 2019, Rae Dower's squad visited Tonga, Vanuatu, and Solomon Islands, training and playing international matches as part of an initiative dubbed the 'Pacific Step-Up' tour. The tour was supported by the Australian Government and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and provided not only crucial time together for the squad, but the chance for FFA to deliver a series of initiatives and workshops to Oceania Football Confederation (OFC) nations to help develop football.

At the 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship in September 2019, the Westfield Junior Matildas commenced their campaign in an impressive fashion, earning a solid goalless draw against the eventual tournament winners, Japan. On game day two, Australia thumped Thailand 6-1, before being held to a 2-2 stalemate with Bangladesh in their third and final Group A fixture. Remaining undefeated in the pool meant that the Westfield Junior Matildas sealed progression to the knockout phase of the competition, and in the semi-finals the squad met DPR Korea. Australia's 3-0 loss to DPR Korea set up a third-place match against China PR, and the Junior Matildas took an early lead through Hana Lowry. However, two goals late in the second half denied Australia's youngsters progression to the 2020 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup™, which was to be held in India.

Australia's top scorer at the 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship was Western Australian Hana Lowry, who netted three goals.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

U-23 MEN'S
OLYROOS

FY20 proved to be an successful period for Australia's U-23 men's national football team, with the 'Olyroos' securing a place in the men's football competition at the Olympic Games for the first time since Beijing 2008 after finishing in third-place at the AFC U-23 Championship in Thailand, held in January 2020.

Australia's success in Thailand demonstrated what can be achieved by Australian footballers when they are afforded a solid preparation leading into a major tournament. Prior to the AFC U-23 Championship in Thailand at the start of 2020, the Olyroos played two home friendlies against New Zealand (September 2019), ventured to Doha, Qatar for a training camp inclusive of friendlies against Qatari Second Division side Lusail Club and IR Iran (October 2019), and travelled to Chongqing, China for the Dazu Rock Carvings Cup – a tournament they won after defeating China PR U-23 5-1, DPR Korea U-23 4-0, and Lithuania U-23 1-0.

This preparation, combined with a friendly in early January 2020 against Korea Republic in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, helped the final squad to gel for the AFC U-23 Championship Thailand 2020 – a competition that doubled as Asia's men's football qualification process for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. In Group A of the AFC U-23 Championship Thailand 2020, Australia defeated hosts Thailand 2-1 in front of over 22,000 fans, sandwiched between draws against tough Middle Eastern opponents Iraq and Bahrain, to advance to the knockout phase. In the quarter-finals, Australia showed great spirit to defeat Syria 1-0 after-extra-time, before being defeated 2-0 by Korea Republic – the eventual tournament Champions – in the semi-finals. These results led Australia to the bronze medal match against central Asian heavyweights Uzbekistan, and in the Olyroos' final fixture of the tournament Perth Glory marksman Nicholas D'Agostino scored the only goal of the game to ensure Australia's men's squad sealed a ticket to Tokyo.

The global COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in March 2020, however at the time of publication the Games have been rescheduled to 2021. As the men's football competition at the Olympic Games is nominally a tournament for U-23 players, FFA also worked with the Asian Football Confederation and FIFA to seek an adjustment to the eligibility regulations for Tokyo 2020. Pleasingly, this has now been ratified, and all players born on or after 01.01.1997 will be eligible for selection in 2021. This means that many of the squad that helped Australia qualify for Tokyo, will have the chance to earn selection to be there.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

U-20 MEN'S
YOUNG SOCCEROOS

Like Australia's U-23 men's national football team, FY20 was a successful period for the Young Socceroos. In August 2019, Gary van Egmond's side ventured to Vietnam to contest the 2019 AFF U-18 Youth Championship, and came away with the title. After topping Group B of pool play, the Young Socceroos defeated Myanmar 2-1 in the semi-finals before edging Malaysia 1-0 in the Final. The top scorer at the tournament was Australia's Dylan Ruiz-Diaz (6 goals), while Lachlan Brook (3), Marco Tilio (3), Kai Trewin (2), and Leyton Brooks (2) all contributed significantly to Australia's success.

The Young Socceroos' time together in Vietnam helped the squad to prepare for their 2020 AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers, which were held in Chinese Taipei in November 2019. In Kaohsiung, Australia topped Group H of qualifying ahead of Laos, Chinese Taipei, and Macau. Like in Vietnam, Ruiz-Diaz, Tilio, and Brook contributed goals to Australia's successful campaign to qualify for the AFC U-19 Championship.

In December 2019 and February 2020 respectively, the Young Socceroos held talent ID camps domestically (Canberra) and internationally (Netherlands), as they continued their preparations for the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship to be held in October 2020 in Uzbekistan. Ultimately, the 2020 AFC U-19 Championship was postponed due to the global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, the tournament is slated to be contested in March of 2021.

U-17 MEN'S
JOEYS

The first half of FY20 was a busy period for Australia's Joeys, led by Head Coach Trevor Morgan. Having secured a place at the FIFA U-17 World Cup Brazil 2019 thanks to their performances at the AFC U-16 Championship in Malaysia the previous year, the Joeys had a World Cup to look forward to and work towards. However, due to the timing of continental competitions and qualification cycles, Morgan also had a second, younger Joeys group to monitor and work with, as they commenced their national team journeys.

The financial year commenced with the younger Joeys cohort participating at the 2019 AFF U-15 Championship in Thailand in August. In Chonburi, the young Joeys experienced their first foray into international football, with games against Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei. The team won three of their five fixtures, and lost just one, however this wasn't enough for the squad to advance to the knockout phase of the competition.

September 2019 saw camps and matches galore. Australia's 'senior' World Cup Joeys travelled to England as their preparations for Brazil 2019 ramped up. In the United Kingdom, Australia played against England, Korea Republic, and Brazil, gaining vital international match exposure ahead of the U-17 World Cup in October and November. Meanwhile, the 'younger' Joeys ventured to Vietnam, and managed to win four matches from as many games to seal qualification for the 2020 AFC U-16 Championship in Bahrain (a tournament that was later postponed due to the global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – at the time of writing, the tournament is slated to be contested in April 2021).

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

In October 2019, Australia's senior Joeys cohort took off for South America and the FIFA U-17 World Cup Brazil 2019™. After a training camp and friendly against Chile in Santiago, Australia readied themselves for challenges against Ecuador, Hungary, and Nigeria in Group B of the prestigious youth tournament. In game one, Australia were edged 2-1 by Ecuador, however the squad bounced back in match two to draw 2-2 with Hungary. In the team's third and final pool fixture, a double to striker Noah Botic – impressively, his third and fourth goals of the competition – helped Australia to defeat five-time FIFA U-17 World Cup™ winners Nigeria. The result ensured that the Joeys advanced to the Round of 16 at the tournament as one of the four best third-placed sides from the six groups. In the knockout phase, Australia met the eventual third-placed side in the tournament, European heavyweights France. The Joeys went behind early, and despite their best efforts conceded three times in the final 16 minutes of the match to see the score blow out.

Off the back of a big 2019 of matches, several players from the Joeys' World Cup squad, including captain Ryan Teague and midfielder Cameron Peupion secured moves to European clubs.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

PARAROOS

The first half of FY20 was an exciting period for the Pararoos – Australia's senior men's national football team for athletes with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury, or symptoms acquired from stroke. After sealing qualification to the 2019 IFCPF World Cup in IR Iran in November 2018, the Pararoos competed at the tournament proper in Seville, Spain in July 2019. The first stop on the team's European tour was Bavaria, Germany, where the squad geared up for the IFCPF World Cup with two friendlies against their hosts near Munich. In Seville, Kai Lammert's charges contested Group C of the tournament, and lost their opening two fixtures against Ukraine and Argentina respectively. On matchday three, the Pararoos secured a 2-0 victory over Spain to seal third spot in their section – with the match marking Pararoos great Chris Pyne's 100th appearance in the green and gold. Australia's win was made even more special given Australia's most-capped Socceroo, Mark Schwarzer, was in attendance.

Australia's third-place finish in Group C meant they moved on to challenge for places 9 to 16 at the IFCPF World Cup. A dominant 5-0 win against Thailand in the team's next match was followed by a 2-1 loss to Germany, before the team silenced Canada 4-2 in their final fixture of the tournament to finish at the 11th placed team at the World Cup. Indeed, the win against Canada ensured that Australia finished the competition with a record of three wins and three losses from their six matches.

The Pararoos would go on to meet Canada again in late November 2019, when FFA hosted an historic international friendly for the squad in Sydney. After securing FIFA Forward 2.0 funding, FFA hosted the first official match for the Pararoos in Australia since the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games at Cromer Park on Saturday, 30 November 2019. The game, which Australia won 5-0 thanks to doubles from Ben Roche and Connor Bunce, as well as Daniel

PARAROOS CONT...

Campbell's opener, attracted a crowd of over 1,100 people on Sydney's northern beaches, and drew significant media interest, as Australia's national men's CP football team inspired thousands of kids across the country. 2019 was a milestone year for the Pararoos, with Pararoos 'keeper Pyne calling time on his career after the Canada fixture, and skipper David Barber chalking up his 100th cap for his nation against the Canadians.

FUTSALROOS

Activity returned for the Futsalroos in FY20, with the squad playing two friendly matches against Solomon Islands in October 2019 prior to traveling to the 2019 AFF Futsal Championship held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. While the squad secured wins in both their friendlies against Solomon Islands before departing for Vietnam, Rob Varela's side lost their first Group B match at the 2019 AFF Futsal Championship to the hosts, and eventual bronze medallists, 2-0. Australia rebounded on matchday two to secure a 6-4 win over Malaysia, with goals coming to Grant Lynch (2), Wade Giovenali, Adam Cooper, Nathan Niski, and Jarrod Basger. Unfortunately, an 8-3 loss to Indonesia on matchday three meant Australia finished third in their section at the tournament, and subsequently did not secure one of AFF's three places at the 2020 AFC Futsal Championship which was to be hosted by Kuwait.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

COMPETITIONS

WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE

MELBOURNE CITY FC CLAIMED AN HISTORIC DOUBLE BY WINNING THE PREMIERSHIP AND CHAMPIONSHIP HAVING GONE THROUGH THEIR ENTIRE CAMPAIGN UNDEFEATED.

Boasting a star-studded squad, Melbourne City FC, began their Westfield W-League 2019/20 Season with a 1-all draw against the Newcastle Jets, but then took maximum points from their remaining 11 regular season matches and eventually sealed their third Premiership title with a 4-0 victory over the Western Sydney Wanderers FC at Marconi Stadium in round 13.

Melbourne Victory worked hard to keep up with their local rivals but were unable to replicate the form that saw them win their inaugural Premiership last season and had to settle for second place on the ladder this time around. Sydney FC also maintained their perfect Westfield W-League Finals Series appearance record after finishing in third place on 22 points.

Western Sydney Wanderers FC had their best ever performance in the Westfield W-League finishing the regular season in fourth place which also gave them their first Westfield W-League Finals Series appearance.

In the first of the Westfield W-League 2020 Semi Finals, Veronica Latsko was Sydney FC's hero after her early strike proved enough to down Melbourne Victory, 1-0, and put the defending Westfield W-League Champions back into the Grand Final.

The 24-year-old American striker showed her poacher's instincts in the 14th minute to net her third goal of the season, a campaign which started late as she recovered from an ACL tear that forced her to spend six months on the sidelines.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

The following day in the second of the Westfield W-League 2020 Semi Finals, Melbourne City FC recorded an emphatic 5-1 win over the Western Sydney Wanderers FC. With three goals in the first half, it was always going to be a difficult assignment for the Wanderers who were able to pull a goal back early in the second half, but City responded with two goals soon after to put them in to the Westfield W-League 2020 Grand Final.

Westfield W-League 2020 Grand Final between Melbourne City FC and Sydney FC was played at AAMI Park without fans due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic restrictions at the time which limited the number of people allowed within public venues.

Melbourne City FC's captain, Steph Catley struck the winner as Melbourne City edged Sydney FC, 1-0, to become the first Westfield W-League club to lift their fourth Westfield W-League Championship Trophy in the past five years since their competition debut,

Steph Catley also received the Westfield Player of the Westfield W-League Grand Final.

Western Sydney Wanderers FC's American import Kristen Hamilton Christine Nairn won the Julie Dolan Medal, as the Westfield W-League's player of the Season, after receiving 13 points.

Ellie Carpenter from Melbourne City FC won the Westfield W-League Young Footballer of the Year Award for the third year in a row whilst her head coach Rado Vidosic was named the Westfield W-League Coach of the Year for the first time.

There was a four-way tie for the Westfield W-League Golden Boot Award with Morgan Andrews (Perth Glory), Kristen Hamilton (Western Sydney Wanderers FC) Remy Siemsen (Sydney FC) and Natasha Dowie who all scored seven (7) goals and Amy Jackson from Melbourne Victory scored the Westfield W-League 2019/20 Goal of the Year for her effort in the 32nd minute against Perth Glory in Round 7.

Aubrey Bledsoe (Sydney FC) and Lydia Williams (Melbourne City FC) were named joint winners of the Westfield W-League Goalkeeper of the Year Award.

In the Westfield W-League Fair Play Award category, Melbourne Victory, the Newcastle Jets and Perth Glory were named joint winners after they all accrued the lowest number of fair play points (9).

Rebecca Durcau was named the Westfield W-League's Referee of the Year.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

SYDNEY FC DID THE PREMIERSHIP/CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE AND IN THE PROCESS BECAME THE MOST SUCCESSFUL DOMESTIC CLUB IN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE HISTORY.

The Hyundai A-League 2019/20 Season will go down in history as the longest on record with 324 days passing between the opening match on 11 October 2019 to the Hyundai A-League 2020 Grand Final on Sunday 30 August 2020.

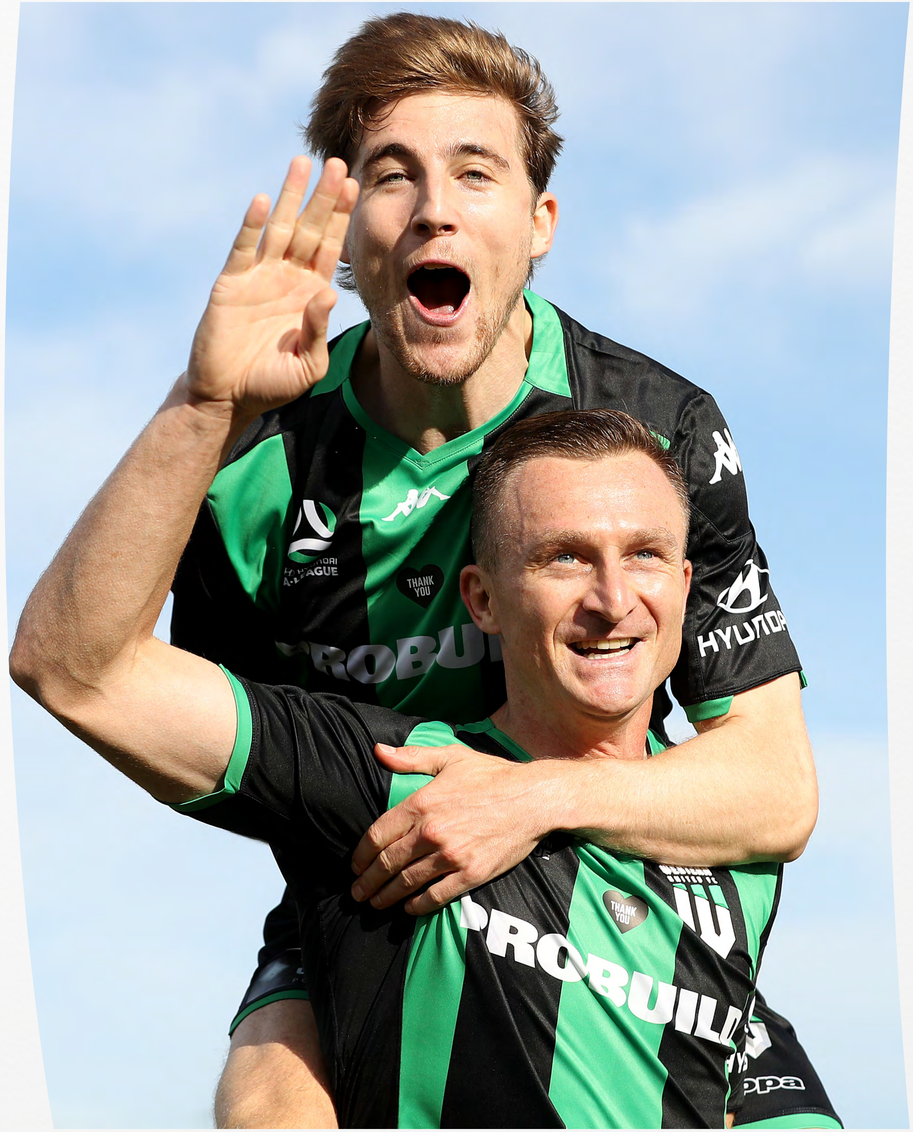
On the eve of the Round 1, FFA welcomed ABC TV as a the new free-to-air broadcast partner of the Hyundai A-League for the first time in the competition's history. Western United FC became the 14th club to play in the Hyundai A-League when they kicked off their maiden campaign against the Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium.

Sydney FC got off to a fantastic start and only lost two matches up until round 23 with both of those losses at the hands of their cross-town rivals, the Western Sydney Wanderers in rounds 3 & 18.

Following the devastating bushfires that occurred around Australia during the past summer, FFA and the Hyundai A-League clubs dedicated two rounds of the Hyundai A-League and Westfield W-League to bushfire and drought relief with Rural Aid (www.ruralaid.com.au) as the main charity partner. In excess of $100,000 was raised to support Rural Aid by the clubs and players.

Round 15 saw history made when Kate Jacewicz became the first female to referee a Hyundai A-League match when she took control of Melbourne City FC against the Newcastle Jets on Saturday, 18 January 2020 at AAMI Park in Melbourne.

With the spread of COVID-19, Football Federation Australia (FFA) had to make the tough decision to suspend the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 Season on 24 March 2020 in the interests of the health and welfare of all stakeholders and in line with government regulations. In making the announcement, FFA also committed to restarting the competition as soon as possible once permitted.



FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

With the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 expected to extended beyond the normal end date, on the 15th June 2020, FFA and Professional Footballers Australia (PFA) announced a deal which would see the restart of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 Season on 16 July and allow players contracts to be extended to 31 August 2020. In addition, FFA also renegotiated a broadcast deal with FOX SPORTS that would guarantee coverage of the remainder of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 Season and the A-League 2020/21 Season.

The revised draw for the restart of the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 season was published on 1 July 2020 and would see the remaining 27 matches of the regular season played in 28 days followed by the Hyundai A-League 2020 Finals Series which would be played over 9 days. Most of these matches would be played in venues in NSW due to travel restrictions around Australia and New Zealand at that time.

Following the restart of the competition on Friday 17 July, Sydney FC eventually claimed their fourth Hyundai A-League Premiership with three matches to play.

Western United FC finished in fifth place and secured a Hyundai A-League Finals Series berth in their first campaign.

All matches of the Hyundai A-League 2020 Finals Series were hosted at Bankwest Stadium in Parramatta, including the Hyundai A-League 2020 Grand Final.

In the first of the Hyundai A-League 2020 Elimination Finals, Perth Glory defeated Wellington Phoenix with Joel Chianese scoring the winner in the 18th minute. In the other Hyundai A-League 2020 Elimination Final, newcomers Western United dispatched Brisbane Roar FC 1-0 courtesy of a sublime free kick from their captain Alessandro Diamanti.

The Hyundai A-League 2020 Semi Finals were played as a double header with Melbourne City FC defeating Western United FC 2-0 and then Sydney FC ran out 2-0 winners over Perth Glory thanks to first half goals from Milos Ninkovic and Adam Le Fondre to set-up a tantalising Championship decider between the first and second placed teams from the regular season.

Sydney FC faced off against Melbourne City FC in the Hyundai A-League 2020 Grand Final in front of crowd of 7,051, which was close to the maximum permissible crowd due to government restrictions.

With both teams goalless after regulation time, it was a Rhyan Grant goal in the 100th minute that was the difference between the two teams. The win also crowned Sydney FC as the most successful domestic club in Australian National League history with a record fifth Championship Trophy.

Rhyan Grant also received the Joe Marston Medal winner as the player of the Hyundai A-League 2020 Grand Final.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Alessandro Diamanti from Western United FC has capped off an outstanding first season in the Hyundai A-League by claiming the Johnny Warren Medal.

Riley McGree (Adelaide United - October), was named the Hyundai A-League Young Footballer of the Year ahead of:

Angus Thurgate (Newcastle Jets - November), Reno Piscopo Wellington Phoenix - December), Cameron Devlin (Wellington Phoenix - January) Nick D'Agostino (Perth Glory - February), Matthew Millar (Newcastle Jets - March) and Tom Glover (Melbourne City FC - July/August).

Melbourne City FC's Head Coach, Erick Mombaerts, received the Hyundai A-League Coach of the Year Award.

Melbourne City FC's Jamie Maclaren was the Nike Golden Boot Award winner after scoring 22 goals .

Nikolai Topor-Stanley from the Newcastle Jets scored the Hyundai A-League Goal of the Year Award for his long-range strike in Round 21 against Perth Glory in the 12th minute.

Andrew Redmayne (Sydney FC) collected the Hyundai A-League Goalkeeper of the Year Award.

Sydney FC also won the Hyundai A-League Fair Play Award after accruing the least number of yellow and red card points.

Chris Beath was awarded the Hyundai A-League Referee of the Year.

There was also a record number of 126,230 memberships across the Hyundai A-League.

FOXTEL Y-LEAGUE

SYDNEY FC WON THEIR SECOND FOXTEL Y-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER DEFEATING MELBOURNE VICTORY 5-1 AT NETSTRATA JUBILEE STADIUM.

The Foxtel Y-League 2019/20 Season was the 12th edition of the competition and once again saw ten clubs divided into two conferences; Conference A (Adelaide United, Brisbane Roar FC, Melbourne City FC, Melbourne Victory and Perth Glory) and Conference B (Central Coast Mariners, Canberra United, Newcastle Jets, Sydney FC and Western Sydney Wanderers FC). Within each conference, the teams played each other twice over 10 rounds (4 home / 4 away – 8 matches and 2 byes per team).

The Foxtel Y-League 2019/20 Season commenced on the weekend of 16/17 November 2019, with the top team from each conference meeting in the Foxtel Y-League 2020 Grand Final on Friday 31 January 2020.

In Conference A, Melbourne Victory got off to a slow start losing 7-0 to Brisbane Roar FC in their opening match, but then went on an undefeated run winning five and drawing once before losing to their local rivals Melbourne City FC in round 9. In their last match of the regular season, Melbourne Victory convincingly defeated Adelaide United 4-1, courtesy of a Luis Lawrie-Lattanzio hat-trick, to claim top spot and a berth in the Foxtel Y-League 2020 Grand Final.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

In conference B it was essentially a two-horse race between Sydney FC and the Central Coast Mariners with both teams recording wins early in the campaign. Sydney FC gained to upper hand in round 7 when they defeated the Mariners 5-3 at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium in late December and then sealed top spot on the table when the Mariners lost their local derby 2-1 to the Newcastle Jets in Round 9.

The Foxtel Y-League 2020 Grand Final was scheduled for Netstrata Jubilee Stadium prior to the Hyundai A-League 2019/20 match between Sydney FC and Brisbane Roar FC.

Sydney FC's Jordan Swibel scored the opening goal in the 6th minute and Luis Lawrie-Lattanzio equalised half and hour later before Marco Tilio restored Sydney FC's lead just before the half-time break.

The second half saw Sydney FC score three unanswered goals through Jake Hollman (56'), Benjamin Koop (71') and Marco Tilio (73') to give the Sky Blues a memorable win and the Foxtel Y-League Championship Trophy.

Jake Hollman from Sydney FC was named the Foxtel Y-League Player of the Year with this teammate Marco Tilio claiming the Foxtel Y-League Golden Boot award after scoring 9 goals during the season.

Canberra United won the Foxtel Y-League Fair Play for the least number of yellow and red cards.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

E-LEAGUE

SYDNEY FC WERE BACK-TO-BACK E-LEAGUE PREMIERS WITH A NEW ALL STAR PAIRING

The E-League 2020 season saw a new competition format and venues that will allow fans to truly connect with the competitors.

Under the revamped format the E-League 2020 Season would be played over 11 rounds split over two match days (15 February and 7 March) at the ESL Studios in Sydney. The E-League 2020 Finals Series to be held on Saturday, 9 May 2020 at the newly developed Fortress Melbourne, the largest gaming and esports venue in the Southern Hemisphere.

EA Sports also confirmed that the E-League would be a League Qualifying Tournament II of the EA SPORTS FIFA 20 Global Series, which provides a pathway for competitors to compete at the FIFA eWorld Cup. As a result, the E-League 2020 Champ on will receive 450 Global Series Points, an increase of 250 points from last season.

All matches throughout the E-League 2020 Season and E-League 2020 Finals Series would also be streamed on twitch (www.twitch.tv).

The biggest signing news of the off-season saw Jamie O'Doherty (@JamieODoherty) join the reigning E-League Premiers, Sydney FC, where he partnered last year's E-League Champion, Mark Brijeski (@FUTWIZMarko) in what can only be described as a powerhouse combination.

In February this year Jamie and Mark competed at the FIFA eClub World Cup as Team FW AU where they were knocked out in the Round of 16 by eventual Finalists, Ellevens.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

In a coup for Wellington Phoenix this season, the legendary Harry Blackmore (@HoneyBadgerFIFA) will line-up with fellow New Zealander, Campbell Knowles (@airbrn__) to form a true Kiwi connection. Now that he is age-eligible for selection, Perth Glory have signed Dillon Henriques-Gomes, the younger brother of last year's Xbox console winner – Melbourne City's Marcus Gomes.

Match Day 1 saw the Sydney FC dominant duo of Playstation 4 star FUTWIZ Marko and Xbox One ace FUTWIZ Jamie record five wins and a draw from their opening six matches.

The Kiwi combo of Tundra HoneyBadger and airbrn put Wellington Phoenix in close pursuit, four points back, with four wins and two defeats from their opening encounters.

Melbourne rivals Victory and City have also clocked up 12 points to fill the top four spots, while Brisbane Roar and Western United rounded off the top six.

The Defending champion FUTWIZ Marko took out the PS4 Player of the Day gong showing ominous form in his search to regain his title with a perfect performance of six wins out of six.

The only points Sydney FC dropped on the day was in the final round of the day, when Newcastle Jets' gamer N8 AKP0 pulled off the shock of the day with a 2-1 win over FUTWIZ Jamie to square up the overall score at 2-2.

As a foundation player on Western United's E-League debut, the competition's youngster gamer, 16-year-old N8 Dylan clinched the Xbox Player of the Day award after finishing with a record of four wins and one defeat from his five matches, including a 2-0 triumph against Melbourne City's 2019 Grand Finalist Marcus Gomes.

Perth Glory may have only picked up two wins from their five clashes but their Xbox One player SARGE scored one of the goals of the day with this sharp passing move and thunderbolt finish outside of the box from Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

Match Day 2 saw the Sydney FC pair of FUTWIZ Marko and FUTWIZ Jamie taken to the wire by the Brisbane Roar FC pairing of Naylor and Aussie FIFA, but a Round 11 Big Blue triumph against Melbourne Victory helped Sydney FC ultimately clinch the E-League Premiership title.

Sydney FC's only defeat came against crosstown rivals Western Sydney Wanderers, with Anezer's 3-0 Xbox win against FU WIZ Jamie – the brother of Red and Black midfielder Jordan O'Doherty –sparking the upset of Match Day 2.

Brisbane Roar FC made the biggest leap on the day, starting Round 7 in fifth place and claiming four wins and a draw to finish second on the ladder – only three points off the top.

FUTWIZ Marko was the top-ranked PS4 player and N8 Dylan the highest ranked Xbox One player form the E-League 2020 Season.

Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the E-League 2020 Finals Series had to be postponed and then eventually cancelled following a directive from EA Sports regarding all FIFA 20 tournament events globally.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

THE NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES (NPL) 2019 FINALS SERIES WAS HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2019, WITH THE EIGHT MEN'S NPL PREMIERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION CONTESTING THE FINALS OVER THREE WEEKENDS.

The NPL Finals Series has been held annually since 2013 and affords the overall winner with a direct slot in the following year's FFA Cup Round of 32.

In 2019, Wollongong Wolves FC (NSW), Lions FC (QLD), Campbelltown City SC (SA), Devonport Strikers (TAS), Perth SC (WA), Heidelberg United FC (VIC), Maitland FC (NNSW), and Canberra Olympic (ACT) achieved the honour of representing their respective Member Federations in the NPL Finals Series.

The NPL 2019 Finals Series Grand Final was contested on Saturday, 5 October 2019 at Albert Butler Park in Primbee on the South Coast of New South Wales.

The Grand Final proved to be an epic affair, with former National Soccer League (NSL) club Wollongong Wolves claiming the title after a hard-fought 4-3 victory over Lions FC from Queensland after-extra-time.

Lions FC took the lead in the 13th minute when Shaun Carlos headed home from an Andy Thompson corner.

Thomas James equalised from the penalty spot in the 52nd minute after Harry Callahan was fouled in the box by the Lions FC captain, Matija Simic.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

Wollongong Wolves took the lead in the 80th minute when Takeru Okada tapped in from inside the 6-yard box but Lions FC substitute, Marek Madle, equalised four minutes later which then pushed the match into extra time.

After scores remained level for the first period of extra time, Bul Juach restored the Wolves lead with a headed goal from a Taylor McDonald cross in the 109th minute which gave his team the advantage going into the closing 10 minutes of the match. Thomas James sealed the result for the Wolves in the 116th minute when he blasted his right-footed shoot into the roof of the net from close range and complete his brace. The Lions gave the Wolves a late scare when they pulled a goal back from the penalty spot through Joe Duckworth in the 119th minute, but Wollongong held on for the remainder of the match to secure their first NPL Championship.

Wollongong Wolves were coached by former Socceroo Luke Wilkshire. Harry Callahan from the Wollongong Wolves took out the prestigious John Kosmina Medal for being the player of the NPL 2019 Grand Final, which was presented by former Socceroo and NSL & A-League Champion Alvin Ceccoli.

2019 marked the seventh edition of the NPL Finals Series, which was won in 2018 by South Australian club Campbelltown City SC. Sydney United 58 FC won the inaugural competition in 2013, as well as in 2016, while MetroStars SC from South Australia (2014), Blacktown City FC from New South Wales (2015) and Heidelberg United FC from Victoria (2017) have also been crowned Champions of the series in the past.

FFA CUP

ADELAIDE UNITED CLAIMED BACK-TO-BACK FFA CUP TITLES AND BECAME THE FIRST CLUB TO CLAIM THE FFA CUP FOR A THIRD TIME.

Adelaide United secured their third FFA Cup trophy after defeating Melbourne City 4-0 in the FFA Cup Final 2019 at Coopers Stadium in front of a full-house crowd of 14,920.

The Reds opened the scoring through Al Hassan Toure, who caught Melbourne City FC goalkeeper Dean Bouzanis out at the near post in the 25th minute.

Ben Halloran doubled his team's lead shortly the start of the second half after he dispatched a Riley McGree cutback shortly after the interval.

Nikola Mileusnic added a third for the Reds on the hour mark following an excellent exchange between McGree and Halloran.

Riley McGree scored the fourth and final goal of the match in the 75th minute to highlight a dominant display by Adelaide United.

Following his match winning performance, Al Hassan Toure was named the Mark Viduka medal winner for the best player of the FFA Cup Final 2019.

The FFA Cup 2019 saw 737 clubs enter the sixth edition of the competition. For the Final Rounds of the FFA Cup 2019, there were 124 goals at an average of 4 goals per match, with an aggregate crowd of 83,217 at an average attendance of 2,684 per match.

The Round of 32 saw a few major upsets with the Hyundai A-League 2019 Grand Finalists Sydney FC and Perth Glory both defeated in their first outings by Brisbane Roar FC and Western Sydney Wanderers FC respectively, with Melbourne Victory, who finished third in the previous Hyundai A-League season, ousted by the Newcastle Jets. The Brisbane Strikers caused the biggest upset when they knocked out Wellington Phoenix in a penalty shoot-out at Perry Park.

The Round of 16 went pretty much to form with the remaining Hyundai A-League clubs all defeating their member federation opponents with the Central Coast Mariners also defeating Brisbane Roar FC on penalties at Dolphin Stadium.

The Quarter Finals saw the Brisbane Strikers continue their impressive FFA Cup run with a 3-2 win over the Moreland Zebras, whilst the Central Coast Mariners scored a stoppage time win, courtesy of Abraham Majok tap-in, over Hume City at ABD Stadium. In the other matches Melbourne City FC scored a 3-0 win over the Western Sydney Wanderers and Adelaide United defeated the Newcastle Jets 1-0.

The Semi Finals of the FFA Cup 2019 saw the Brisbane Strikers campaign come to an end at the hands of Melbourne City FC who inflicted a 5-1 defeat on the Queenslanders with Adelaide United scoring a late win over the Central Coast Mariners to book their third consecutive FFA Cup Final berth.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

THE AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2020 SAW PERTH GLORY, SYDNEY FC AND MELBOURNE VICTORY REPRESENT AUSTRALIA IN ASIA'S PREMIER CLUB COMPETITION.

In their eighth AFC Champions League campaign, Melbourne Victory, who finished third in the Hyundai A-League 2018/19 Season, were the Australian team to kick-off entering competition in the preliminary stage. Their opponents in their opening match were Bali United (IDN) at AAMI Park. Melbourne Victory dominated the match from the opening whistle and convincingly defeated their Indonesian opponents 5-0 with goals to Migjen Basha (15'), Josh Hope (37'), Robbie Kruse (59') Ola Toivonen (82') and Elvis Kamsoba (90').

Having now progressed to the play-off stage, Melbourne Victory had a tough assignment against the 2018 AFC Champions League Champions, Kashima Antlers (JPN), in Japan. Having finished the previous J-League season in third place, and with the home ground advantage, Kashima were the clear favourites going into the match.

Melbourne Victory did not care too much for the form guide and in torrential rain at Soccer Stadium in Kashima they stood up to their more fancied opponents. After a scoreless first half, Andrew Nabbout scored the only goal of the match with a deft strike from the edge of the box in the 54th minute to give Melbourne Victory a memorable away win and passage into the group stage of the AFC Champions League 2020.

Melbourne Victory were placed in Group E with Beijing FC (CHN), Chiangrai United (THA) and FC Seoul (KOR) Perth Glory were drawn in Groups F with Ulsan Hyundai (KOR),

Shanghai Shenhua (CHN) and FC Tokyo (JPN), whilst Sydney FC were in Group H along with Yokohama F. Marinos (JPN), Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC (KOR) and Shanghai SIPG (CHN).

Melbourne Victory began the group stage of the competition with a 1-0 win against Chiangai United thanks to a successful first half penalty by their captain, Ola Toivenen. Their second match was not so successful with the reigning K-League Champions, FC Seoul, recording a 1-0 win at the Seoul World Cup Stadium.

In their first appearance in the AFC Champions League, Perth Glory played their opening match against the 2019 J-League runners-up, FC Tokyo, at Tokyo Stadium. Perth Glory performed admirably in their first outing of the competition and held their hosts scoreless up until the 82nd minute when a curling shot by FC Tokyo's Brazilian midfielder Leandro broke the deficit and ultimately was the match winner.

Sydney FC started their campaign against a familiar foe when then faced the reigning J-League Champions Yokohama F.Marinos, who are coached by former Socceroos Head Coach Ange Postecoglou, at Yokohama Stadium in Japan. Unfortunately for the Sky Blues, their hosts scored three goals in the first half and then scored their fourth early in the second half that meant that it was always going to be a tough challenge to get any positive result out of the match. Sydney FC rallied late but were unable to reduce the deficit in the remainder of the match.

Sydney FC fared better in their second match against Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC who they hosted at Netstrata Jubilee Stadium. After a scoreless first half, Sydney FC went down 0-1 in the 50th minute following an own goal by Luke Brattan. Trent Buhagiar equalised for the Sky Blues in the 56th minute and then took the lead in the 77th minute through Adam LeFondre. Jeonbuk equalised just before the end of regulation time when Han Kyo-Won scored from inside the box which meant that the points would be shared on this occasion.

Due to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining group matches of the AFC Champions League 2020 were postponed with the recommencement date for the AFC Champions League 2020 (EAST) matches, at a centralised venue, scheduled to be played from 18th November to 7th December with the Quarter Finals and Semi Finals for the 10th and 13th December respectively and the AFC Champions League Final 2020 scheduled for 19th December.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

AWARDS & HONOURS

WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE

2019/20 AWARDS

JULIE DOLAN MEDAL

Kristen Hamilton
Western Sydney Wanderers FC

YOUNG FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Ellie Carpenter
Melbourne City FC

COACH OF THE YEAR

Rado Vidosic
Melbourne City FC

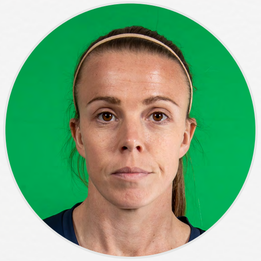
GOLDEN BOOT AWARD

Morgan Andrews
Perth Glory

Kristen Hamilton
Western Sydney Wanderers FC

Remy Siemsen
Sydney FC

Natasha Dowie
Melbourne Victory



GOAL OF THE YEAR

Amy Jackson
Melbourne Victory

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Aubrey Bledsoe
Sydney FC

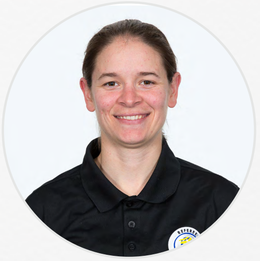
Lydia Williams
Melbourne City FC

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Melbourne Victory

Newcastle Jets

Perth Glory



REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Rebecca Durcau

Julie Dolan Medal:
Kristen Hamilton
(Western Sydney Wanderers FC)

Young Footballer of the Year Award:
Ellie Carpenter (Melbourne City FC)

Coach of the Year:
Rado Vidosic (Melbourne City FC)

Golden Boot Award
(Top Goal Scorer Award)

Morgan Andrews (Perth Glory – 7 goals)

Kristen Hamilton
Western Sydney Wanderers FC – 7 goals)

Remy Siemsen (Sydney FC – 7 goals)

Natasha Dowie
(Melbourne Victory – 7 goals)

Goal of the Year:
Amy Jackson
(for Melbourne Victory v Perth Glory, 32min - Rnd 7)

Goalkeeper of the Year:
Aubrey Bledsoe (Sydney FC) &
Lydia Williams (Melbourne City FC)

Fair Play Award:
Melbourne Victory, Newcastle Jets & Perth Glory

Referee of the Year:
Rebecca Durcau

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
2019/20 AWARDS

JOHNNY WARREN MEDAL

Alessandro Diamanti
Western United FC

YOUNG FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

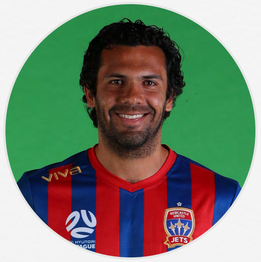
Riley McGree
Adelaide United

COACH OF THE YEAR

Erick Mombaerts
Melbourne City FC

GOLDEN BOOT AWARD

Jamie Maclaren
Melbourne City FC



GOAL OF THE YEAR

Nikolai Topor-Stanley
Newcastle Jets

GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

Andrew Redmayne
Sydney FC

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Sydney FC

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Chris Beath

Johnny Warren Medal
Alessandro Diamanti (Western United FC)

Young Footballer of the Year Award:
Riley McGree (Adelaide United)

Coach of the Year:
Erick Mombaerts (Melbourne City FC)

Golden Boot Award
(Top Goal Scorer Award)

Jamie Maclaren (Melbourne City FC)
22 goals

Goal of the Year:
Nikolai Topor-Stanley
(Newcastle Jets, Round 21 v Perth Glory)

Goalkeeper of the Year:
Andrew Redmayne (Sydney FC)

Fair Play Award:
Sydney FC

Referee of the Year:
Chris Beath

FOXTEL Y-LEAGUE
2019/20 AWARDS

Player of the Year Award
Jake Hollman (Sydney FC)

Golden Boot Award
(Top Goal Scorer Award)

Marco Tilio (Sydney FC)
9 goals

Fair Play Award:
Canberra United

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jake Hollman
Sydney FC

YOUNG FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Marco Tilio
Sydney FC

FAIR PLAY AWARD

Canberra United

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

BOARD & MANAGEMENT

FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS

The names and details of the Company's directors in office during the financial year and until the date of this report are as follows. Directors were in office for this entire period unless otherwise stated:

Ms K Bayer Rosmarin
(until retiring in October 2019 in accordance with the FFA Constitution)

Mr M Bresciano

Mr J Carrozzi

Ms A Duggan

Ms R FitzRoy

Mr C Murray
(until retiring in October 2019 in accordance with the FFA Constitution)

Mr C Nikou

Mr R Nogarotto

Ms H Reid

Ms C Wilshire

Kelly Bayer Rosmarin

Director – retired October 2019

Ms Kelly Bayer Rosmarin was appointed to the FFA Board on 17 November 2015. She is a member of FFA's Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. An experienced banking executive who was a former member of the Executive team at the Commonwealth Bank, Ms Bayer Rosmarin is the Chief Executive Officer at Optus. She serves on the University of New South Wales Engineering Faculty Advisory Board, and NSW Government Digital Advisory Panel. Ms Bayer Rosmarin has a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Science in Management Science from Stanford University and received an Academic Excellence Award for being the top Masters graduate. She was also a 2011 Vincent Fairfax Fellow and is a member of Chief Executive Women.

Mark Bresciano

Director

Mr Mark Bresciano was appointed to the FFA Board on 1 October 2019. Born in Melbourne, Mark played youth football for Bulleen Lions, before moving into the National Soccer League with Carlton. In 1999, he moved to Italian Serie B side Empoli, beginning a twelve-year stay in the country. In 2002, he moved to the Serie A with Parma, later playing for Palermo and S.S. Lazio. From 2011, he spent the final four years of his career in the Middle East, first with UAE Pro-League side Al Nasr and then Qatar Stars League club Al-Gharafa. Mr Bresciano made 84 appearances for Australia, scoring 13 goals. He played in three FIFA World Cups, two AFC Asian Cups and the 2004 OFC Nations Cup winning team.

Joseph Carrozzi

Director

Mr Joseph Carrozzi was elected to the FFA Board of FFA in November 2018 and is the chair of Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and FFA Congress Nominations Committee. He is a Managing Partner at PwC Australia and is a member of the firm's National Leadership Team. Mr Carrozzi is a member of several Boards including: Chairman of Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Chairman of the Centenary Institute for Medical Research, Deputy Chairman of the NSW Institute of Sport and Board member of Western Sydney University. Mr Carrozzi is a Fellow of the Tax Institute of Australia (FTI) and Member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales and is admitted as a Barrister at Law in NSW.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Duggan

Director

Ms Amy Duggan was appointed to the FFA Board on 1 October 2019. She is a member of the Football Development Committee. Ms Duggan has 25 years' experience in various roles in football and is a former Matilda. A communications professional, Ms Duggan is a Journalist and Presenter for WIN Television and has worked in the media industry for 20 years. She is especially fond of the time she spent covering the Matildas, Socceroos, the W-League and the Women's World Cup in 2019. Ms Duggan holds a Commerce degree from the University of Wollongong and serves on several committees and sports' boards.

Robyn FitzRoy

Director

Ms Robyn FitzRoy was elected to the FFA Board on 21 November 2019. She is a member of FFA's Finance, Risk and Audit Committee and chair of the Constitution Review Committee. An experienced financial services executive, she is a former Executive Director of Macquarie Bank Group. She is currently principle of a governance consultancy which she founded. Ms FitzRoy is an independent non-executive director on the boards of Diversa Trustees Limited, Gateway Bank and the Self Managed Super Fund Association. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University, a Master of Arts from the University of Technology, a Diploma of Information Technology Business Application, Harvard University, a Diploma in Marketing Management, Macquarie University and is a Master Coach, International Coaching Federation. Ms FitzRoy is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Chris Nikou

Chair

Mr Chris Nikou was appointed to the FFA Board on 16 October 2014 and elected Chairman in November 2018. He is the Chair of the Referees Committee and the FIFA Women's World Cup Bid Committee. Mr Nikou is a Senior Partner of international law firm K&L Gates, where he is head of the Corporate and Commercial Group across Australia and Asia. He was a director of the Local Organising Committee AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 Ltd until resigning on 19 June 2015 following the completion of the tournament in January 2015.

Remo Nogarotto

Director

Mr Remo Nogarotto was elected to the FFA Board of FFA in November 2018 and is a member of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Bid Committee and is Chair of the National Second Division working group and chair of the Heritage Committee. He is Managing Director of global advisory firm CT Corporate Advisory and is a Director of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Australia. He is a former Chairman of Soccer Australia, Chairman of the National Soccer League and Director of the NSW Soccer Federation. He was a member of the organising committee for the A-League. Mr Nogarotto holds an Economics degree from the University of Sydney.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

FFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Crispin Murray

Director - retired October 2019

Mr Crispin Murray was appointed to the FFA Board on 17 November 2015 and is on the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee. Mr Murray is the Head of Equities at the Pendal Group (formerly BT Investment Management) having joined the business in 1994. Mr Murray holds an Honours degree in Economics and Human Geography from Reading University in the United Kingdom.

Heather Reid

Director

Ms Heather Reid AM was elected to the Board of FFA in November 2018 and is a member of the Referees Committee and FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Bid Committee. She has over 40 years' experience in various capacities from community to international level. She was CEO of ACT Football Federation Ltd (Capital Football) for 12 years to 2016 and General Manager of Canberra United in the Westfield W-League for nine seasons. She has a Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma in Sport Management as well as an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Canberra. She has served on several boards including the ACT Olympic Council and the Burns Club Ltd, and was on the Local Organising Committee AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015 Ltd.

Carla Wilshire

Director

Carla Wilshire OAM is the CEO of the Migration Council Australia (MCA), Australia's national research and policy institution on migration, settlement and social cohesion. She has a background in policy development and Government Relations. She has worked as a public servant and advisor to Government, principally in the area of migration and resettlement, including as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Carla is Deputy Chair of the Migrant and Refugee Health Partnership, board member of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and a member of the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity and the Harmony Alliance Council. Carla was previously on the Settlement Services Advisory Council and the National Anti-Racism Partnership and co-founded the Friendly Nation Initiative.

Tim Holden

Company Secretary

Mr Tim Holden joined Football Federation Australia in March 2009. He acts as the Head of Legal, Business Affairs and Integrity and was appointed company secretary in February 2019. Prior to joining FFA, Mr Holden worked at Allens as a lawyer in the firm's Litigation and Intellectual Property department. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney. Mr Holden has been a member of the Asian Football Confederation's Disciplinary and Ethics Committee since June 2019.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

BOARD COMMITTEES

FFA BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	DIRECTOR MEMBERS	FFA MEMBERS	EXTERNAL MEMBERS
Finance, Risk and Audit Committee	Joseph Carrozzi (Chair) Robyn Fitzroy Carla Wilshire	James Johnson Mark Falvo Tim Holden (Secretary)	N/A
Football Development Committee	Remo Nogarotto (Chair) Amy Duggan Mark Bresciano	James Johnson Trevor Morgan Sarah Walsh Graham Arnold Ante Milicic Tim Holden (Secretary)	Starting XI advisory panel to the FDC: Mark Bosnich, Frank Farina, Heather Garriock, Vicki Linton, Paul Okon, Joanne Peters, Clare Polkinghorne, Connie Selby, Josip Skoko, Ron Smith and Mark Viduka
Referees Committee	Chris Nikou (Chair) Heather Reid	James Johnson Mathew Cheeseman Tom Bragg (Secretary)	Allyson Flynn Simon Przydacz Jim Ouliaris Nathan Magill
2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Bid Committee	Chris Nikou (Chair) Remo Nogarotto Heather Reid	James Johnson Jane Fernandez Mark Falvo Stuart Corbishley (Secretary)	Moya Dodd Natasha Stott-Despoja Greg Griffin Ros Moriaty Jo Fernandes

FFA CONGRESS STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	DIRECTOR MEMBERS	FFA MEMBERS	EXTERNAL MEMBERS
Nominations Standing Committee	Joseph Carrozzi	N/A	Fran Sankey Anthony Di Pietro Kate Gill Janette Spencer
Finance and Risk Standing Committee	Joseph Carrozzi	Mark Falvo (Secretary)	Sherif Andrawes Bob Gordon Simon Pearce Kerry Harris
Compliance Committee	N/A	N/A	Wendy Barry Kimon Taliadoros Greg Griffin Kate Gill
Women's Football Council Standing Committee	N/A	Sarah Walsh (Secretary) James Johnson	Ally Green Caroline Carnegie Elise Kellond-Knight Fran Sankey Helena Dorczak Janette Spencer Lydia Williams Ros Moriarty Sue Crow

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

James Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

Mark Falvo

Chief Operating Officer

Tim Holden

Head of Legal, Business Affairs and Integrity Company Secretary

Greg O'Rourke

Head of Leagues

Jane Fernandez

Head of FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 Office (Australia)

Sarah Walsh

Interim Head of Community, Women's Football and Football Development

Peter Filopoulos

Head of Marketing, Communications and Corporate Affairs

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

THANK YOU

MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Capital Football
Northern NSW Football
Football Northern Territory
Football NSW
Football Queensland
Football South Australia
Football Tasmania
Football Victoria
Football West

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE AND WESTFIELD W-LEAGUE CLUBS

Adelaide United F.C.
Brisbane Roar FC
Canberra United
Central Coast Mariners
Macarthur FC
Melbourne City Football Club
Melbourne Victory FC
Newcastle United Jets
Perth Glory FC
Sydney FC
Wellington Phoenix FC
Western Sydney Wanderers FC
Western United FC

PARTNERS

Hyundai
Westfield
Foxtel
Qantas
Nike
Seven Consulting
rebel
Gallagher
Cadbury
bet365
AIS
Proudly supporting Black Dog Institute
mitre
The power of humanity
Australian Red Cross
Victoria State Government
NSW Government
Government of Western Australia
Adelaide South Australia
Australian Government Australian Sports Commission
Canberra
Fox Sports
tv+iview
Sky Sport
Crocmedia

Football Federation Australia