

# Hockey push for second turf

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A much awaited second hockey turf is moving a step closer with the Wairarapa Hockey Association in the final stages of planning the development of another turf and a new pavilion at Clareville.

The association's executive officer Kelly Govan says Wairarapa Hockey is at the stage where players are now being hampered by the lack of turf time given the fact that there is only one full sized hockey turf in the region.

Based on last year's player numbers the Clareville facility is the busiest in New Zealand. In 2007 there were 1538 registered players to Wairarapa Hockey, with just the one full sized turf to accommodate them. The next most crowded turf in the country is in Canterbury where 1222 players share it, according to Govan. In 2007 the national average was 734 players per turf.

"These figures show us just how far behind we are in being able to offer our region's hockey players with the facilities that they require to perform to the highest levels," Govan says.

Wairarapa has a wonderful history of producing outstanding hockey players and has consistently performed well at all levels nationally.

The addition of a new WETT turf will give players the opportunity to play and practice on a surface that many of the national tournaments are now being played on, Govan says. It will also allow the duration of games to extend and provide the flexibility of more appealing game times.

"In doing this new players will be attracted to the sport and existing ones will be retained."

The addition of a new pavilion with bar and catering facilities will make hockey in the region a really enjoyable experience for both players, supporters and their families, particularly on cold Wairarapa nights, she says.

The second turf will also enable the Association to hold National Tournaments bringing players and visitors to the region.