

9 October, 2017.

## **HONOURING FOUNDING CHAIR LES MURRAY AM**

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The Southern Expansion Group is pleased to announce plans to formally recognise our Founding Chair Les Murray AM for his invaluable contribution to our bid to bring A-League and W-League football teams to the Southern region and to ensure his powerful legacy remains an active and lasting part of the club's identity.

Southern plans to honour Les by:

- Naming Les as our Club's Honorary Chair in perpetuity;
- Naming elements of Southern's charitable work after Les, with particular focus on causes Les was so passionate about, such as scholarships and programs for refugees and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- Naming elements of our Award programs within the Club, such as a highly prestigious Les Murray Medal;
- Naming a key piece of infrastructure within our proposed purpose-built home stadium after Les such as, for example, The Les Murray Chairman's Club, or the Les Murray Stand.

Southern's Head of Football, Craig Foster said: "Our Steering Group believes these honours represent a fitting tribute to Les' dedication and commitment to football and the wider Australian community.

"It ensures that our football family can always remember and honour Les for his tireless contribution to our bid to bring professional A-League and W-League football to the Southern region, which was so close to his heart.

"Southern's cultural identity of community, social responsibility, family and inclusion were heavily influenced by Les and through these his contribution will never be forgotten."

Southern's CEO, Chris Gardiner said Les' partner Maria and two daughters had accepted the Group's plans to honour Les.

Mr Gardiner said Southern's new Chairman will be announced in the coming weeks and will coincide with the Group's bid submission, formally lodged with FFA.