

## Glen Eira City Council Cricket Pitch Covers on council grounds



**Peter Todd Ground Maintenance Coordinator for the Glen Eira City Council had this to say;**

*"Finally I've found a synthetic Pitch Cover system that can be both laid & picked up in one piece.*

*Gecko's system is great, it's easy to lay & to pick up. Last year we had more than **140 different teams** play on the pitch covers and we didn't get one complaint.*

*In **less than 7 years** we will have paid back this new system in comparison to our traditional method of covering pitches with soil which is messy & inferior to a player's safety.*

*With 10 covers already being used in the Council I'm committed to the system and eventually all non-natural turf wickets will be covered with Gecko's system".*

The **Glen Eira City Council** had been searching for a solution for covering cricket wickets other than soils for sometime. The dirt & mess associated with this increases the chances of damaging the pitch as well as compromising a footballers' safety. The original 1 piece pitch covers couldn't successfully be removed at the end of the season without being cut up into smaller pieces. Glen Eira City Council also trialed other pitches including cricket wickets, but found cricketers playing on the wicket opposed it.

A short time later the council came across the 'Gecko Pitch Cover System' which has the ability not only to cover the wicket in one piece, but also can be picked up in one piece.



Gecko worked along side the Glen Eira City Council to ensure the system was suitable for their application & after some fine tuning satisfied the requirement. Part of the requirement was to ensure the pitch cover met all AFL guidelines including Clegg hammer & Friction testing as well as the Critical Fall Height Standard AS 4422:1996. *The cover passed with 'flying colours . . .'*

At the beginning of the 2009 football season the council installed 5 Gecko pitch covers which were successfully removed at the end of the season. With this great success the council acquired another 5 covers at the beginning of the 2010 season and has included a budget for more in the coming years.



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