

# ARTIE SMITH OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

**Club:** Bomaderry Tigers Australian Football Club

**Council:** Shoalhaven City Council

**Venue:** Artie Smith Oval

**Facility Hierarchy:** Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Shoalhaven City Council	\$11,569,800
NSW Government: Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund	\$8,800,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,369,800</b>

## OVERVIEW

The Artie Smith Oval upgrade was designed and constructed in line with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines and immediately increased the participants (including umpires) experience with high-quality female friendly amenities. Additionally, the ground now provides greater opportunity for night fixtures. The upgrade included a new playing field, clubhouse and amenities, spectator seating, car parking, electronic scoreboard, croquet courts and clubhouse, play and exercise equipment, fencing and, landscaping along with other associated infrastructure, catering to the needs of the local community.

The comfortable club house setting, and large undercover spaces allow for a better spectator experience on match days and provides greater access to the football clubs to coordinate post-match functions. Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) has confirmed that this redevelopment allows the AFL South Coast league greater flexibility for bookings and fixturing, which will be particularly useful to minimise travel times for the largely dispersed league. The venue will host the premier junior events in the South Coast - Representative Football, and the Junior Grand Final, with the plan to also host the Senior Grand Final.

Previous hours of use	18	Previous SFA score	43
Current hours of use	22	New SFA score	136
Combined Male Participation	203	Combined Female Participation	128

Artie Smith Oval (and the adjoining Shoalhaven Indoor Sport Centre (SISC)) fall within a broader sporting precinct called the Shoalhaven Community & Recreation Precinct (SCARP). The precinct includes Artie Smith Oval (and the SISC) to the south of Cambewarra Road, and the RE1 Public recreation land known as the Bomaderry Sporting Complex to the north of Cambewarra Road which currently includes the Bomaderry Aquatic Centre, Bomaderry Croquet Club, and three sports fields used for junior cricket, rugby League, and touch football.

A strategic master planning study was developed for the SCARP area by Acclimate Pty Ltd and finalised in February 2017.

The purpose of the study was to 'develop a detailed Master Plan for the establishment of a Regional Sports and Community Precinct at the Artie Smith Oval and Bomaderry Sporting Complex to deliver high quality sporting facilities together with infrastructure to support local, regional and state level sport, as well as local and regional community needs.

The completion of this project was supported by the Bomaderry Tigers Australian Football senior and junior clubs, Bomaderry Cricket Club, Nowra Croquet, Shoalhaven City Council, Bomaderry High School, AFL NSW/ACT and Cricket NSW.





*"Over the years we have made steady improvements with assistance from Council, the local Member for Kiama (Mr Gareth Ward) and a lot of self-help. Despite our efforts, we still had nothing that even closely compares with the state-of-the-art facilities that we are about to utilise. In that time, I have travelled to various venues across NSW for AFL & Cricket Representative games (Junior & Senior) and have always been envious of amenities and playing fields they have, however with the completion of the redevelopment & upgrade, the Shoalhaven can now proudly boast a facility of their own that is the equal of any others out there. This will help reinvigorate the growth of AFL & Cricket in the region and bring Community and Council members closer together by fostering a strong sense of pride and Community Spirit."*

**Neville Hickmott**  
Life Member and Treasurer of  
Bomaderry AFC

*"The Shoalhaven Community and Recreation Precinct Artie Smith Oval - Southern project is a remarkable collaboration, generously co-funded by Council, the Australian Government, and the NSW Government's Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund."*

*This redevelopment caters not only to the high-quality training and sporting needs of our local clubs and players but also solidifies the Shoalhaven as a premier host for major sporting events.*

*The transformed Artie Smith Oval is a testament to the power of collaborative efforts and the commitment to community development. This facility will undoubtedly become a key player in the Shoalhaven's recreational scene."*

**Amanda Findley**  
Mayor of Shoalhaven



*"The Artie Smith Oval Redevelopment has been in the planning with all stakeholders for a number of years. Credit to the Shoalhaven City Council and the Bomaderry Australian Football club for being so proactive in the wake of the 2020 Black summer bushfires by seeking and obtaining significant bushfire recovery funding from the federal government to progress this project.*

*The upgrades designed and constructed in-line with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines will provide greater flexibility in fixturing and become a major focus for AFL junior finals and events for the region, with excellent facilities for participants, umpires, and spectators across many levels."*

**Michael Stanton**  
AFL NSW/ACT

