

BENNETT OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

\$3.837M

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE WINNER

Stakeholders	Contribution	Utilisation	Football Clubs
AFFF - Camera Platform	\$7,500	2019: 16-20 hours	Whyalla Football League
Grassroots AFL, Cricket and Netball Facilities Funding	\$890,850	2021: 26-30 hours (+10)	
Whyalla City Council	\$2,938,650		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The redevelopment included a total refurbishment of the grandstand, associated player, umpire and spectator facilities incorporating modular design into the existing grandstand structure, an upgrade of the playing surface to AFL standard and lights to 500 lux.

UTILISATION AND BENEFITS:

- > Bennett Oval is the central venue utilised by Australian football in Whyalla for training, competition and finals for the six Football Clubs affiliated to the Whyalla Football League.
- > The playing surface upgrade and improved lighting increased access opportunities for Clubs. Previously Clubs had to source alternate ovals due to consistently poor surface quality and inefficient lighting which led to high traffic area damage. Facilitating alternate venues also came at a cost to both volunteer capacity and club finances.
- > The facilities upgrade provides an elite standard facility for the local Whyalla community football clubs to enjoy for years to come.

EVENT OPPORTUNITIES:

- > The standard of infrastructure, lighting and playing surface delivered has provided opportunity for Whyalla Council to tender for other sport and community events including SANFL Country Championships and Regional cricket events.
- > The redevelopment of Bennett Oval to an AFL standard, was the foundation requirement for the Port Adelaide Football Club to host the Western Bulldogs in a 2020 Marsh Cup preseason AFL match Marsh Cup held at the venue on 7 March. Community football training commenced end May 2020 once COVID restrictions eased.



