

# LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH

## GORE HILL OVAL

### AT A GLANCE

- New state-of-the-art synthetic playing surface
- Major, under-oval retention tank for storm water from the sports precinct and neighbouring North Shore Hospital
- Upgraded amenities including modular change rooms
- LED lights that lean down to ground level for easy maintenance
- Adventure playground
- Walking track
- Grassed mounding
- \$10,000,000 invested in civil works, sports facilities and the community precinct

### THE BACKGROUND

## BELOW THE SURFACE

Gore Hill Oval in St Leonards, Sydney, New South Wales has long been famous - for all the wrong reasons. The venue was notorious for the poor surface that often rendered it unplayable. But even with its sub-par conditions, the junior and senior clubs had become two of the biggest in the State, highlighting the need for a safer, superior facility.

### THE PROCESS

## SAFETY FIRST

Led by Willoughby City Council, AFL NSW/ACT, North Shore Australian Football Club and Willoughby Wildcats Junior Australian Football Club were involved in the process from consultation through to delivery. The planning process included extensive research and visits to other state-of-the-art synthetic fields across Australia.

### THE RESULT

## A FACILITY FIT FOR FOOTBALL

Gore Hill Oval has been transformed from an unsafe and often unusable facility to an inclusive community

facility with extraordinary levels of reliable usage. This standout regional ground features a new synthetic playing surface and upgraded amenities block along with many other features. The safe carrying capacity and surface quality have allowed both the North Shore Australian Football Club and Willoughby Wildcats Junior Australian Football Club to continue their remarkable growth, particularly in female participation.

Beyond the code, the precinct is an extension of the backyard for the surrounding community of St Leonards, with an adventure playground, landscaped walking tracks and grassed mounding for spectators, local families and office workers to enjoy.

### THE FUTURE

## ACCOMMODATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF TALENT

The facility is now able to accommodate the growing community and surrounding clubs in high level senior Australian Football as well as junior football and other sports. Independent research shows the ground is one of the safest in the whole competition. The facility will be used for a range of competitions, including the NSW Independent Schools AFL program.



The artificial playing surface has been a significant positive. North Shore has 13 senior teams and there are 20 or so junior teams that also use the ground. All of these teams have to be accommodated on one ground and there isn't a grass surface that would be able to stand up to that level of use. The old surface reached the point where it was almost unplayable from the start of July each year, but by that time last year we had one of the better decks in Sydney.

**John Goode**

President, North Shore Australian Football Club



Australian football's profile will flourish thanks to this very visible, always green, always usable playing surface. It will easily host approximately 35 male and female teams who will never miss a training session or game and will set a new benchmark for Community AFL in Sydney. A lower injury rate and an open, free-flowing game style will only boost participation, a win-win for the players, club, code and community. This community friendly precinct is already acting as the backyard for the rapidly growing apartment and CBD-like office populations of St. Leonards.

**David Lawson**

Infrastructure Planning Manager, AFL NSW/ACT

