

UNLEY OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Sturt Football Club
 Council: City of Unley
 Venue: Unley Oval
 Facility Hierarchy: State Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Federal Government	\$2,300,000
City of Unley	\$1,600,000
Sturt Football Club	\$1,300,000
TOTAL	\$5,200,000

OVERVIEW

The Unley Oval Redevelopment was required to modernise and improve the existing facilities at Unley Oval to meet the evolving needs of the local football community. The previous facilities were outdated, lacked inclusivity and accessibility, and no longer provided adequate support for players, officials, and spectators.

This project involved significant enhancements to the existing Jack Oatey Grandstand, including inclusive changerooms, functional medical and coaching areas, gymnasium, 320-person function room, admin offices, open-air boxes, accessible event plaza and improved spectator seating. Now with better lighting and supporting infrastructure this facility maximises venue capacity.

The project achieved its aim to enhance the overall football experience, support talent development, offer unrivalled match-day hospitality options, and cater to the growing demands of the community through function, corporate and private hiring opportunities.

In addition to football, the venue continues to be a multi-use venue, hosting cricket over the summer, numerous conferences and community hiring and welcomes passive recreational use for walkers and dogs with oval lights on from 5am daily.

Previous hours of use:	30	Current hours of use:	50
Male Participation:	254	Female Participation	139

The Redevelopment was part of a three-stage project initiated by the Sturt Football Club and the City of Unley, benefiting male and female players, umpires, and supporters, for future generations.

- » **Stage 1** of the redevelopment involved the installation of unisex changerooms, to support Sturt's SANFLW teams, at the base of the Harry J. McKay Grandstand.
- » **Stage 2** was centred around the redevelopment of the Jack Oatey Grandstand.
- » **Stage 3** of the redevelopment will revolve around the refurbishment of Unley Oval's playing field in preparation for future AFLW games and use during the AFL's second edition of Gather Round.

The investment in facilities at Unley Oval has provided the AFL with an additional venue to host AFLW and other associated activity with Gather Round locked in until 2026.

This preparation for the elite game means the upgraded facilities also are in support of talent pathways, providing aspiring players, and coaches with better training opportunities to nurture their development and advancement in the sport.

The successful outcomes of the Unley Oval Grandstand Upgrade project can be attributed to the strong collaboration and partnership between the City of Unley and Sturt Football Club. Their joint efforts and shared vision ensure that the project meets the needs of the football community, providing a modern, inclusive, and thriving facility. Backed by engagement with the local community, to gather feedback and support for the project, the project's focus on modern, functional, and accessible facilities ensures that Unley Oval will remain a sustainable and valuable asset for years to come.





“The Unley Oval Grandstand redevelopment is the perfect example of community collaboration, showcasing the partnership between Sturt Football Club and the City of Unley. This unprecedented investment not only benefits the club but also enriches the entire community, setting the stage for exciting future projects. With these recent upgrades, the location has evolved into not only an iconic destination but a premier club for talented male and female Australian Rules Football players.”

Sue Dewing,
Sturt Football Club CEO

“This project has been about much more than simply upgrading an ageing arena. There was a very clear vision about its revitalisation in a staged approach over several years to finally realise what all the partners in this project have achieved. Congratulations to everyone involved in this landmark project, and to the SANFL for recognising the thought and work that has gone into it. Unley Oval has always been at the heart of this community, and this development ensures that it will remain a vital part of its life for generations to come.”

Peter Tsokas,
City of Unley CEO





"A three-stage project initiated by the Sturt Football Club and the City of Unley, the impressive improvement to the home of the Double Blues is set to benefit male and female players, and supporters, for future generations."

Darren Chandler,
SANFL CEO

Facility of the Year 

