



# 2024 KEN GANNON COMMUNITY FOOTBALL FACILITIES AWARD

NATIONAL NOMINEES  
CASE STUDIES





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

The annual Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Award recognises best practice in community football facility development across the country. Since its commencement in 2019, these annual awards have awarded a number of key projects which greatly benefit the significant growth we have seen across all Australian Football programs. The need to provide fit for purpose, welcoming and accessible football facilities is continuous, this award congratulates those committed to facilitating Australian Football utilisation through safe, modern and accessible venues to ensure all participants, of all different backgrounds and cultures, can appreciate our great game.

In a decorated career across many areas of the AFL, Ken Gannon spent much of the last decade of his career developing the AFL's interest and partnerships in the community facilities space, leading outcomes related to over 800 community football facility projects in that period. This award recognises Ken's significant contribution to our great game.

2024 has been a great year for facility development. With 140 new sites activated for football use throughout 2024, each AFL State and Territory organisation have announced their best community football facility for 2024. Each of these local winners are considered for the national award.

The Australian Football League congratulates the following national finalists of the 2024 Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Award.

## 2024 Ken Gannon Community Football Facilities Award Nominations

State/Territory	Club	Council	Project Title	Total Project Cost
New South Wales / ACT	Lismore Swans Australian Football Club	Lismore City Council	Oaks Oval Upgrade	\$15,000,000
Northern Territory	Nightcliff Football Club	City of Darwin	Nightcliff Middle School	\$37,000
Queensland	Greenbank Giants Junior Australian Football Club	Logan City Council	Everleigh Sports Field Development	\$16,000,000
South Australia	Tanunda Football Club	The Barossa Council	Tanunda Recreation Park Redevelopment	\$10,800,261
Tasmania	Circular Head Football Club	Circular Head Council	Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre	\$700,585
Victoria	Clyde Cougars Football Club	City of Casey	Clyde Recreation Reserve Redevelopment	\$21,701,499
Western Australia	Caversham Suns Junior Football Club	City of Swan	Dayton District Open Space Development	\$55,284,232



# OAKES OVAL UPGRADE

**Club:** Lismore Swans Australian Football Club

**Council:** Lismore City Council

**Venue:** Oakes Oval

**Facility Hierarchy:** Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Lismore City Council	\$1,000,000
NSW Government	\$7,000,000
Federal Government	\$7,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>

## OVERVIEW

The Oakes Oval facility redevelopment enhances the oval's utilisation by modernising infrastructure, increasing accessibility, and improving operational efficiency. Upgrading the changerooms to be gender-neutral, adding new media and coaches' boxes, refurbishing the function room, bar, and kitchen, installing 300 LUX LED lighting, and enhancing the playing surface create a more inclusive, safe, and accessible environment for all user groups. In addition, the grandstand expanded seating makes the venue more versatile and attractive to a wider audience. This modernised grandstand provides better comfort and amenities for spectators, boosting attendance and community engagement. Improving surface amenities and the grandstand enhances the playing experience with safer, high-quality conditions, attracting more participants and reducing injuries. Accessibility improvements, such as the universal design features, ensure inclusivity for all users. These upgrades were made in line with the AFL's Preferred Facilities Guidelines at a regional level facility.

This redevelopment creates new revenue opportunities through commercial spaces, event hosting, and community programs, fostering greater engagement at both grassroots and professional levels. In addition, operational updates, including energy-efficient systems, create lower maintenance costs for council and the clubs and ensure consistent use. These enhancements, combined with improved spectator amenities and an engaging atmosphere, transform the venue into a vibrant hub for AFL to thrive within the region. Going forward, this aims to become a premier location for the club(s) into the future.

The upgraded facilities at Oakes Oval enable year-round use, attract high-profile events to increase ticket sales, sponsorship opportunities, and venue rental. These improvements aim to raise the profile of the sport, through fostering talent development, and strengthen its connection to the local community.

The State and Federal Governments have been major partners of this project with council also making significant contribution. Council was responsible for delivering the project on time and on budget to create a resource for locals and also attract premier matches and significant sporting carnivals and other civic and cultural events.

The Oakes Oval facility supports the increased growth in Australian Football within the Northern Rivers region and is an exemplary example of how various stakeholders across all levels of government can work together to provide beneficial outcomes for our great game.







*"I'm a great believer in the power of sport to create healthy communities and build great relationships and the new Lismore Regional Sports Precinct will be a focal point for live sports as well as training, workshops and school events. Sport is something Lismore was built on and the upgrade of this facility will help ensure it remains a tradition here for many years to come."*

**Mayor Steve Krieg**  
Lismore City

*"To see a development of this quality and significance after the devastation of the 2022 Lismore flooding event is incredible. This upgrade is a fantastic example of a collaborative approach from multiple sports and all levels of Government and as a result Oakes Oval is now one of the Premier AFL venues in all of NSW. We're looking forward to the venue becoming the centrepiece of the continued growth of our game across Northern NSW."*

**Samuel Thomson**  
Venue and Government Partnerships  
Manager - AFL NSW

[Lismore Swans](#) 

[Oakes Oval & Gordon Pavilion](#) 



# NIGHTCLIFF MIDDLE SCHOOL OVAL REMEDIATION

Club: Nightcliff Football Club  
Council: City of Darwin  
Venue: Nightcliff Middle School  
Facility Hierarchy: Training Area

Funding Partners	Contribution
AFL (Australian Football Facilities Fund)	\$37,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>

## OVERVIEW

The exponential growth in Australian Football participation across Australia has highlighted the need to identify innovative green spaces to support greater football utilisation. The Nightcliff Middle School project, in partnership with Nightcliff Middle School, has created an additional green space for Australian Football utilisation, benefitting the Nightcliff Football Club in its effort to locate additional playing spaces.

A Partnership Opportunity Plan (POP) was developed by insidEdge to identify the requirements of this partnership between school and club. This plan determined the feasibility of this partnership which prompted the commencement of works on the school's green space. Following this POP, the oval surface underwent remediation work to improve the oval surface for training and school use. The school staff, Council, and parent community were involved throughout the consultation journey as well as Nightcliff Football Club who were a key stakeholder and were engaged from day one.

In securing and redeveloping the Nightcliff Middle School oval it has provided a much needed space for club training & junior games, supporting the ongoing participation numbers in Darwin. This space has become a permanent training venue for the club and is utilised by all teams freeing up the club's main oval, which has lights for senior & junior games to be played in the evenings, not during the daytime under Darwin's extreme heat, creating a more comfortable playing experience and reducing associated health and safety risks.

Previous hours of use per week	0	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	460	Female Participation	350

AFL NT were the main driver in getting this project underway and completed. A sound working relationship was formed with the Nightcliff Middle School Council & Principal. This partnership evolved over a number of months with all parties aligned in delivering to the school, local community and AFL NT a shared venue.

With an agreement in place for Nightcliff FC to access this ground into the foreseeable future, this new venue will be used to host junior games in early 2025 and beyond. The improved field quality also enhances the school's facilities, strengthening Nightcliff Middle School's reputation as a desirable choice for the surrounding community. In a region with many dynamic challenges the AFL NT team have worked tirelessly to ensure beneficial outcomes in the Northern Territory, a region of particular importance and opportunity.







*"Having access to Nightcliff Middle School has provided the club with much needed training space for seniors & juniors. Thanks to AFLNT for their forward and innovative thinking."*

**Mark Dodge**  
Club President  
Nightcliff Football Club

*"Thanks to AFLNT the school and local community have a quality asset for use all year round."*

**Eva Kokkinomaggoulos**  
Principal  
Nightcliff Middle School

*"This is our first schools' partnership in the NT and we are extremely grateful to the Nightcliff Middle School, Council and School community for their support and long-term commitment. This partnership, in delivering much needed oval space for AFL will also deliver to the school and local community an all year-round green space for multiple community recreational activists."*

**Sam Gibson**  
Head of AFL NT



# EVERLEIGH SPORTS FIELD DEVELOPMENT

**Club:** Greenbank Giants Junior Australian Football Club

**Council:** Logan City Council

**Venue:** Everleigh Sports Park

**Facility Hierarchy:** Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
AFLQ Grand Final Facilities Fund	\$250,000
Federal Government	\$250,000
Queensland State Government	\$200,000
Logan City Council	\$5,212,000
Mirvac	\$10,085,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,997,000</b>

## OVERVIEW

Everleigh Sports Park provides a state-of-the-art facility for the Greenbank Giants JAFCL. The need for a new AFL facility in the Greenbank corridor aligned with the Logan City Council's Integrated Lifestyle Infrastructure Network Plan. This plan along with the AFLQ State Facilities Plan identified a lack of adequate facilities in the region to cater for the rapid growth in AFL, and population increases in the area. Mirvac, through collaboration with AFLQ, Logan City Council and Economic Development Queensland, initiated the concept of an AFL facility which was unanimously supported.

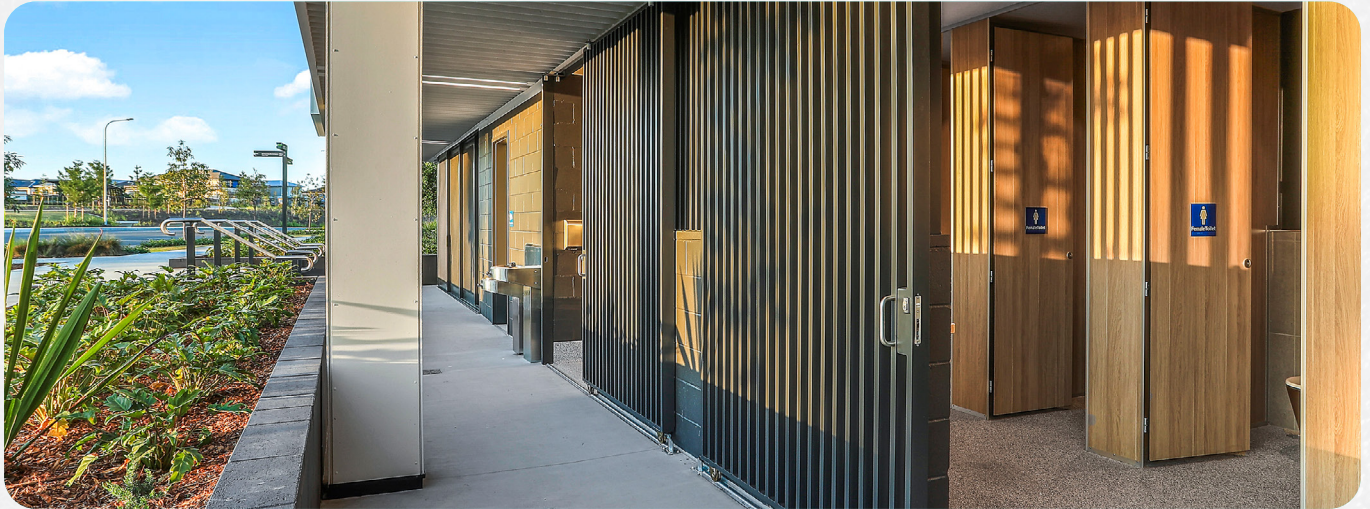
This \$16M precinct includes a 5.5-hectare (MCG-sized) AFL oval and a junior field with 4 gender-neutral player changerooms, a gender-neutral umpire changeroom, first aid rooms, a club room, broadcast facility, spectator amenities, and café tenancy. The venue was meticulously planned to incorporate design and functionality with practical finishes. The venue is top of mind for AFL programs including Nines, Representative Games, Community Finals, School competitions, and gala days. The proximity to Brisbane Lions allows the space to be used as an elite training venue heightening community inclusion. The facility exceeds the preferred venue standards set out in the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines, ensuring long-term sustainability, high functionality, community value and visibility. To complement the estate's aesthetic and act as a focal point for sporting and recreational activity, the park blends seamlessly within the growing residential community.

Previous hours of use	0	Current hours of use per week	30
Male Participation	111	Female Participation	78

The funding partnership between Federal Government, State Government, Logan City Council, Mirvac and AFL Queensland, highlighted the outcomes that can be achieved with collaboration, engagement of experts, cooperation and a passion for the project. Key to the project's success was the ongoing cooperation between all funding stakeholders and contractors working towards a common objective. Regular video updates, media opportunities and events built the excitement of the facility in the community. Mirvac led the way to garnish outcomes that enabled construction and promotion of a facility that supports community connection and builds the opportunity for continued growth and engagement of Australian Football.







"This AFL facility is a great long-term base for Logan, providing world-class facilities that will foster community spirit and support local athletes. It's fantastic to see this investment come to life in one of Queensland's fastest-growing communities. I hope that we will inspire more young people to get active, participate in sport, and dream big, knowing they have a world-class venue right in their backyard."

Linus Power  
MP for Logan

"By working with a strong group of stakeholders we now have this amazing, modern facility for footy fans. This is sure to put Everleigh at the top of the list of great community AFL venues in our young and fast-growing city."

Mayor Jon Raven  
Logan City Council

[Greenbank Giants](#) 

[Mirvac Everleigh Oval](#) 







"The innovative and seamless public-private partnership has enabled the delivery of this state-of-the-art piece of community infrastructure. Everleigh Sports Park is a result of years of work behind the scenes with Council, Federal Government, State Government and AFL Queensland."

Warwick Bible,  
General Manager,  
Residential Development QLD, Mirvac

"It's awesome, you can see a lot of thought has gone into it. The high standard of facilities, from field lighting to drainage, sets the bar for community AFL venues in the area."

Chris Luxford  
Club President

[Everleigh Project Update](#) 

[Mircac Clubhouse](#) 





# TANUNDA RECREATION PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Tanunda Football Club  
 Council: The Barossa Council  
 Venue: Tanunda Recreation Park  
 Facility Hierarchy: Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing	\$2,402,700
The Barossa Council	\$8,065,340
South Australian Government	\$332,221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,800,261</b>

## OVERVIEW

Delivered over a number of stages commencing in 2017, the Tanunda Recreation Park redevelopment saw the upgrade and development of a 300-seat grandstand, six gender neutral player changerooms and supporting gender neutral umpire changerooms, installation of 300 LUX LED lighting, along with further upgrades to the junior oval, surrounding greenspaces, roadways and parking. This upgrade has created contemporary facilities to a venue which has been home to the Tanunda Football Club since 1908.

Classed as a regional facility, the Tanunda Recreation Park is multi-use venue, where a diverse range of participants across football, cricket, netball, tennis and other sport and community groups utilise year-round. This high usage highlighted the need to provide fit for purpose, gender neutral facilities at this facility which was once falling behind as an inclusive and welcoming venue.

With funding from Federal, State and Local government and the SA Football Facilities Fund, these upgrades have ensured that the venue is accessible and welcoming to all user groups and visitors to support participation in grassroots competitions as well as being a central sport and recreation space for the community. Particularly, the gender-neutral facilities mean that the growth of women and girls' participation in the region can be adequately supported and that all participants not only feel safe and welcomed at Tanunda Recreation Park but also see these upgraded facilities as an investment into the future of supporting diversity and inclusion in the local community. This aims to foster a sense of belonging to those at Tanunda Football Club but also provides a more accessible, safe, multi-use venue, creating a destination that can be promoted as part of a Barossa hub for major local, regional, state and national events into the future.

Previous hours of use per week	30	Current hours of use	50
Male Participation	226	Female Participation	59

The Club reports that it has been difficult to get people back into community sport since COVID, particularly families. Since the completion of this redevelopment, with the opening of the junior oval, and the change of junior football games from Friday night to Saturday morning, junior participation rates have increased. Family involvement and volunteers at the football club have also grown on previous seasons and families are staying longer at the football on a Saturday as they have green, safe spaces that their children can play on and enjoy. With the larger clubrooms, Tanunda Football Club are able to accommodate the growing numbers and are reaping the financial benefits of this growth, which they hope to build on in the coming seasons.

These facility upgrades are part of a shared vision and Memorandum of Understanding with SANFL, SACA and Cricket Australia to:

- » **Deliver the best sustainable regional sports event tourism destination for Australian Football and cricket in South Australia**
- » **Drive participation and growth from grassroots to adult grades across Australian Football and cricket.**

The success and quality of the Tanunda Recreation Park redevelopment has resulted in the venue being used during the 2025 AFL Gather Round in the Barossa for official Associated Events as an important community and football content location.

Welcoming, inclusive facilities that align with the AFL Preferred Community Facility Guidelines provide both the local community and visitors the opportunity to be active and connected in modern, purpose-built facilities. The Tanunda Recreation Park Redevelopment showcases how impactful upgrading facilities to be utilised by Australian Football participants, in partnership with other sporting codes and various level of government, have a long lasting, positive impact on the local community and overall personal wellbeing.







*"These facilities are more than just infrastructure - they help build stronger clubs, provide social connection for people of all ages, and support community wellbeing. Now more than ever, we want to keep people actively involved in sports and recreation."*

**Bim Lange**  
The Barossa Council Mayor


*"The award aims to promote and celebrate well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit-for-purpose football facilities that support our growing game's strategic priorities and we congratulate Tanunda Football Club and The Barossa Council for delivering this redevelopment for their region."*

**Rebecca Tappert, Community Venue Development Lead - SANFL**

[Tanunda FC](#) 

[Barossa Council](#) 

[Venue Fly Through](#) 

[SANFL Facility of the Year](#) 







*"It's a wonderful facility for the community, and particularly a great venue for our football club. There's been a whole lot of hard work, dedication and commitment from a lot of people over many, many years to make this happen. It's a fabulous result. I've always said this is a project that provides something for generations to come, not just the present day, and I'm super excited about what we've all been able to achieve."*

Kym Underwood  
Club President





# CIRCULAR HEAD RECREATION GROUND - SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Club: Circular Head Football Club

Council: Circular Head Council

Venue: Circular Head Community and Recreation Centre

Facility Hierarchy: Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program grant	\$700,585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$700,585</b>

## OVERVIEW

The Circular Head Recreation Ground is a venue of significant community importance, being the home ground of the region's premier club - the Circular Head Saints in the NWFL, as well as the Grand Final and marquee venue for the four-team Circular Head Football Association (CHFA) competition. Due to poor drainage, the ground's surface was regularly waterlogged, causing significant difficulties hosting games and maintaining ground quality.

Given the level of the NWFL competition, and the venue also being utilised as a Grand Final and marquee match venue for the CHFA competition, these works had been long identified as a high priority by clubs, council and competitions.

The requirements for this project were that any works needed to be carefully delivered without interference to the existing irrigation. Circular Head Council and The Baker Group engaged SPORTENG to devise a comprehensive drainage solution that was tailored to the specific needs and constraints of the venue. Subsoil drainage pipes were strategically aligned to avoid existing irrigation, with the depth of subsoil pipes and sand-slit drainage adjusted, with a sand carpet layer also installed. This approach worked well and as planned, leading to an upgraded oval that now provides reliable year-round playing surface conditions catering to, on average, over 30 hours of football utilisation per week, in addition to cricket and other user groups throughout the year.

Male Participation	136	Female Participation	73
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The Circular Head Saints now have a home ground that can stand up to the rigours of a wet Tasmanian winter, alleviating the previous issues surrounding poor drainage and water logging. This enables the club to flourish on and off the field and continue to grow.

This project has ensured the Circular Head Recreation Ground remains the region's premier football facility, with the venue now serving the Circular Head Saints, NWFL and CHFA far more efficiently and effectively.







*"The poor condition of the ground nearly sent our club back into recess. As a regional community club, we walk a tightrope every year and having been forced to give away or transfer home games previously due to the ground being a boggy quagmire, put us under enormous pressure to continue. These upgrades now have us with some of the best surface conditions in the NWFL, and we can't wait to continue to grow with these facilities in 2025 and beyond."*

**Keith Billing**  
Circular Head Saints

*"Poor drainage on and under the playing surface in recent years had made the ground almost unplayable during the winter football season. The drainage and surface works now provide a better playing surface, able to deal with prolonged wet weather, with the upgraded drainage system able to disperse water away from the surface. The improved surface will also accommodate regular usage, and cope with increased variety of events and ensuring long-term viability of the ground."*

**Deb Mainwaring**  
Manager - Connected Communities  
Circular Head Council

*"The resurfacing project at the Circular Head Recreation Ground has been a game-changer for the Circular Head Saints. Just three years out of recess, the ground was struggling with foot traffic, and now it boasts some of the best turf in the Northwest. The Saints are a vital part of the NWFL Premier League, and having a home ground that reflects their status as a premier club is fantastic for both the club and the league."*

**Morgan Hughes**  
Competition Manager - NWFL



# CLYDE RECREATION RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Clyde Cougars Football Club  
 Council: City of Casey  
 Venue: Clyde Recreation Reserve  
 Facility Hierarchy: Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Victorian State Government	\$3,000,000
City of Casey	\$12,852,783
Development Contribution Plan	\$5,848,716
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,701,499</b>

## OVERVIEW

The Clyde Recreation Reserve Redevelopment addresses a key need for ovals in the South East Melbourne Metropolitan Region. Strong participation growth in the region, supported by the Clyde Creek Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), identified Clyde Recreation Reserve as a suitable location for improved football facilities. This project would help address the council's identified need to develop an additional 83 new AFL ovals with 16 identified for Clyde alone to cater and service the projected future growth.

Located within a key growth corridor within this region the redevelopment provides three new playing fields with compliant competition sports ground lighting, a multi-purpose pavilion, and associated infrastructure of two netball courts and eight tennis courts, car parking, and site-wide landscaping. This facility has provided greater opportunity and accessibility to football in a growing and diverse community and has become a true community hub, attracting more families, volunteers, and spectators to Clyde JFC games and events. Due to the provision of 3 new ovals in the region, utilisation has increased, allowing the club extra time to train and the ability to accommodate more teams. The club now serves over 220 players across multiple junior teams. The venue also accommodates Auskick servicing over 150 registered participants from the local community.

Clyde Cougars Football Club is a signatory to the AFL's Women & Girls Community Football Charter, demonstrating their continued commitment to making their environment welcoming, safe and inclusive for Women & Girls. In 2024 the club grew with an additional 86 registered football participants, which allowed the club to create 3 girls only teams for the first time. As part of this redevelopment, 8 new gender-neutral changerooms, including 2 umpires changerooms, have been created. These inclusive designs help support the growth in the women and girl's game through providing a safe and inclusive environment where the community can feel welcomed and supported.

In addition, the fitted lights have been installed in line with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines, which not only further promotes a safer space for participants at night, but having multiple grounds available allows matches across all age groups to run throughout the day and night, with further flexibility when scheduling training and matches.

The community room also provides the club with a no-cost amazing facility to host social events throughout the year to assist in fundraising. Some events held (with great success) at the venue during the 2024 season were a kids movie night, parents' trivia night and their annual presentation day which saw over 500 in attendance.

Previous hours of use per week	10	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	306	Female Participation	82

Since 2021, Clyde Junior Football Club showed extensive resilience, operating without a permanent home and using the Hunt Club Recreation Reserve and sharing with another football tenant as their base while construction was being undertaken. The project faced unexpected delays, including those caused by COVID-19, but since its completion, the club has grown from an Auskick program in 2020 to being able to field its first senior team in 2025, with the club showing strong junior numbers in the 4 seasons of existence and has plans to provide a full pathway for their community from Auskick to seniors.

This great project highlights the immediate impact football projects have on the local community. Being well positioned, welcoming, accessible and fit for purpose ensures the growth of Australian Football participation can be maintained in the region.







*"Developments like this are not just about bricks and mortar; it's about creating opportunities and providing equal opportunities for girls and boys to play our great game of AFL that get to use these magnificent facilities."*

**Craig Chapman**  
Club President


*"Facilities like this provides a place for people to socialise and meet others through sport, this facility is vital in building strong communities and there is a lot of pride for the community in this facility."*

**Mayor Stefan Koomen**  
City of Casey







VIC Facility of the Year 

City of Casey 

*"Established in 2020, Clyde Junior Football Club has experienced significant growth reaching 388 participants in 2024. The development at Clyde Recreation Reserve provides a premium facility that allows the club to continue to thrive within Victoria's largest growth corridor. The facility creates an inclusive and welcoming environment for the community and the clubs' inaugural junior girls teams that participated in South East Juniors this year."*

**Sam Confait**  
AFL Victoria - Region Manager  
AFL Southeast



# DAYTON DISTRICT OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

Club: Caversham Suns Junior Football Club

Council: City of Swan

Venue: Dayton District Open Space

Facility Hierarchy: Local Club Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
WA State Government	\$39,747,103
City of Swan	\$15,537,129
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$55,284,232</b>

## OVERVIEW

The Dayton District Open Space (DDOS) project was initiated to address the growing community infrastructure needs of the Swan Urban Growth Corridor and is designed to accommodate future population growth in the region which is predicted to reach 37,000 by 2031. This growth, coupled with high participation growth in Australian Football and other sport programs in surrounding areas, were key drivers in the design, construction and delivery of this project.

As part of this development, a 15-hectare District Open Space in the Swan Urban Growth Corridor was accessed which followed the design and construction of two senior Australian Football playing fields, multi-use courts, two hockey fields, two sport pavilions with gender neutral player and umpire changerooms and other amenities, and a Family Hub which includes informal leisure and recreation spaces. In addition, the DDOS development provided 100 lux LED lighting to both ovals, facilitating a safe, accessible and inclusive space for all users.

This development supports the Caversham Suns JFC, who were at capacity at their previous location at William Henry Oval, which had a small changeroom/pavilion and only one oval. This has allowed the club to bring all age groups together, after previously having to spread across multiple satellite grounds in the area. The larger club house, canteen, additional gender-neutral change rooms and defined spectator viewing areas gave the club capacity for more spectators to watch training and games and enabled them to have multiple games going at the same time. The new gender neutral, fit for purpose changerooms supports the club into the future to support the growth of women's football, as well as providing a top tier facility to host finals in the 2024 season and beyond.

Previous hours of use per week	0	Current hours of use per week	35
Male Participation	382	Female Participation	31

By providing diverse recreational options, the DDOS fosters community interaction and engagement, strengthening local social ties. It is also the focal point for active sporting opportunities in the Swan Urban Growth Corridor and meets the anticipated demand for sporting open space by local clubs. Further to the sporting open space requirements, the site provides leisure and recreational open space opportunities by co-locating facilities such as picnic areas, youth space and path networks.

The DDOS has provided new ovals, facilities and amenities in the Swan Urban Growth Corridor, which is experiencing high levels of growth and development in doing so, this facility can now support modified versions of AFL (i.e. AFL 9's) in the off season (subject to availability and suitability of the neighbourhood playing fields). This brand new space supports the anticipated growth of the Dayton area by providing essential community infrastructure, contributing to the area's appeal and liveability. Funded by the WA State Government and City of Swan, the facility was built in line with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines for a local level facility and is a great example of how supporting the provision of well positioned, welcoming, accessible, fit for purpose football facilities provides beneficial outcomes for not only its users but also the surrounding community.







*"The \$30 million sport and recreation hub will support an area which will continue to see rapid growth in the next 30 years. The Dayton District Open Space is an outstanding example of how the right facilities can truly enhance a community. These modern, accessible football grounds will not only support the growth of our game but also serve as a hub for bringing people together. The collaboration between the City of Swan and the Caversham Suns Junior Football Club has been key to creating such a high-quality facility. This partnership highlights how strong relationships can lead to the development of spaces that will benefit the entire community."*

**Steven Rose**  
Manager Facilities and Government  
Relations - WAFC

*"The Dayton District Open Space is a \$30 million investment into sport and recreation for the community, representing the City of Swan's commitment to effectively plan and deliver infrastructure to meet the needs of our residents. Dayton forms part of the Swan Urban Growth Corridor which has experienced rapid growth in recent years and this top-class facility supports our expanding community, providing plenty of leisure and sporting opportunities. The City is proud to have been awarded the 2024 WA Football Facility of the Year - signifying the start of a thriving future for sports clubs at this facility."*

**Mayor Tanya Richardson**  
City of Swan







*"The club is extremely happy and excited with our move and transition from Caversham to our new facility in Dayton. Relocation has provided the club with two ovals to now utilise, bringing together Auskick, Juniors and enabling our Year 10, 11 and 12's the ability to finally play home games on a full-size oval instead of playing their games at other grounds that could accommodate us. It is great to see the precinct come to fruition after being involved in the consultation process with the City of Swan for the last few years. Having a bigger club house and canteen, plus more change rooms and defined spectator viewing areas, has given us the capacity for more spectators to watch. We can now run multiple games at the same time, plus we hosted finals this season and received positive feedback on the new grounds and clubhouse."*

Michael Cooper  
Club President

[Caversham Suns Junior Football Club](#) 

[City of Swan](#) 

[WA Facility of the Year](#) 