

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
TOTAL	\$15,000,000

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](#) 