

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
TOTAL	\$700,585

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