

MANINGRIDA SPORTS UPGRADES

League: Maningrida Football League
 Council: West Arnhem Regional Council
 Venue: Maningrida Sports Oval
 Facility Hierarchy: Remote Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
Federal Government - Aboriginal Benefits Fund	\$4,600,000
TOTAL	\$4,600,000

OVERVIEW

The upgrades at Maningrida Sports Oval, funded by the Federal Government via the Aboriginal Benefit Account, saw the construction of new gender neutral changerooms, a canteen, and shaded seating to provide modern inclusive amenities for players, officials and spectators. This project was a collaboration between the Maningrida community and Local, State and Federal governments. Being a remote indigenous community, strong community consultation was a key component of the planning and design phase to incorporate cultural knowledge and deliver outcomes that are meaningful and sustainable for the community.

Maningrida is a remote community in Arnhem Land, approximately 500 km north-east of Darwin. It is one of the largest remote communities in the Northern Territory and has a population of approximately 2,500 people and serves as a major service centre for more than 30 outstations and homelands in the region. Maningrida is considered one of the most multilingual communities in the country with over 10 different languages spoken.

The Maningrida Football League is made up of teams from surrounding communities including Ramingining, Minjilang, Gunbalanya and Jabiru. It is a community run competition supported by AFL NT staff and the West Arnhem Regional Council in its governance and administration.

The new changerooms will assist to grow the sport in Maningrida by providing a spacious environment with fit for purpose amenities making the game of Australian football more accessible for all participants. In addition, the canteen and shaded seating support a more comfortable viewing experience for spectators, making the Maningrida Oval a hub for community sport and activities in the region. The new amenities in addition to lighting at the venue now provides more flexibility with match and programme scheduling, allowing more activity in the evenings providing a wonderful social gathering point for the community.

Current hours of use per week	84	Total Participation	1,800+
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Since planning commenced for these upgrades in 2019, new lighting has also been installed at the oval, increasing the hours football and community activities can take place at the venue. This need for improved amenities was driven by local community members and local government to help boost sporting participation in the region providing a welcoming hub for all to utilise and enjoy.

These upgrades have improved access to sport which promotes health and wellbeing in the community, particularly in remote communities, and celebrates pride in community and culture. In addition, local contractors were engaged during construction, providing employment opportunities within the community.

Upon completion of these works local community members, NT Government and Federal Government members attended the official opening which coincided with the Maningrida Football Festival and a visit by the Sydney Swans AFL team. This event provided a great spectacle for the region by showcasing local talent, with over 700 participants across the festival, as well as how this venue can host the local community to promote social engagement and football participation.





"AFL isn't just a sport out here; it's a way of life. It brings us together; it teaches teamwork discipline pride and belonging. It connects generations and builds bridges between cultures. Most importantly it inspires our young people."

Mayor James Wood
West Arnhem Regional Council

