

WINDSOR PARK OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

Club: Launceston Football Club
 Council: West Tamar Council
 Venue: Windsor Park
 Facility Hierarchy: Regional Level Facility

Funding Partners	Contribution
West Tamar Council	\$1,904,138
AFL - Australian Football Facilities Fund	\$74,000
TOTAL	\$1,978,138

OVERVIEW

The Launceston Football Club, the oldest active running football club in Tasmania, faced significant issues stemming from the poor surface quality of their home ground, Windsor Park. This had been a point of contention for a long time with the ground's poor drainage system causing damaged turf leading to delays and cancellations throughout the winter months. The ground was regularly referred to as a 'mud pit' within the local football community, with a helicopter even hired by council to hover over the ground in an attempt to remove excess surface water before a finals match in 2023.

Paired with inadequate lighting provision and outdated oval fencing, investment into the ground was desperately needed to ensure the venue aligned with the standards outlined in the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines. With Launceston playing at the highest level of community football in Tasmania, it was also vital that the conditions befitted the standard of football played at the venue and that the ground could be fully utilised throughout the entirety of the year. With regular closures and sub-par conditions for Tasmanian State League / NTFA Premier League football, both the lighting and surface components of this project were desperately needed to support full utilisation of the venue.

Civil works included the re-leveling of the oval surface, installing new drainage systems, sand slitting, irrigation, the establishment of a 100mm sand mattress, reseeding, new perimeter fencing and improved lighting to 200 lux, to support nighttime training and matches.

The Launceston Football Club advocated for this project for years, understanding the issues with the venue in its previous state. The club sought support from AFL Tasmania and ensured connection between club and council to generate momentum behind the project. West Tamar Council engaged the Launceston Football Club and AFL Tasmania throughout the planning process for this project, ensuring that plans aligned with the AFL's Preferred Facility Guidelines and addressed the needs of the club. The Baker Group were brought on to deliver the project, with an outstanding track record delivering similar projects and experience developing the venue adjacent to Windsor Park (Launceston Christian School) giving council confidence. Timelines were clearly set out from the outset and adhered to throughout, supporting the successful delivery of the project.

Previous hours of use	20	Current hours of use per week	25
Male Participation	248	Female Participation	60

This project has fundamentally transformed the perception and functionality of this venue. Now, the ground is resilient throughout wet conditions, draining superbly, while also having lighting coverage that supports safer training access and night fixtures. A huge result for not only the Launceston Football Club but the broader Northern football community. In addition, the Launceston Football Club has been working to rebuild its women's and girls' program, and these venue improvements make an enormous impact in supporting the club in this pursuit, with more equitable access now far easier to achieve.

The venue and community are now also in a position to host high-level content, as evidenced by the recent hosting of the 'Relive the Rivalry' charity match between Tasmania and Victoria, featuring the likes of Steve Johnson, Russell Robertson, Michael O'Loughlin and more, providing the council with the opportunity to continue attracting higher profile and marquee matches into the future.





"When I played here, come July/August there weren't many blades of grass left. This is fantastic for our club and the West Tamar community.. it's a feather in our community's cap. It is a positive outcome for the hard work the club and council have put in and goes to show what can be achieved."

Scott Stephens
President, Launceston Football Club

"We are very proud of the outcome and have had fabulous feedback from players that use it on a regular basis. We're pleased we have this for our community members, but the benefits also go further outside our municipality. This award gives us the confidence in future to look at projects like this that we may waiver on for whatever reason. We now know when we provide a facility like this for the municipality, its benefits are very far reaching."

Mayor Christina Holmdahl
West Tamar Council



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"The ground was plagued with surface drainage challenges for decades, highlighted through opposition coaches describing the ground as 'mud pit' in the media and council hiring a helicopter to remove excess water before a State League final. Looking at it now, it is hard to believe that this is the same venue. Through the Tasmanian Community Football Facilities Fund, AFL Tasmania has a focus on advocating for and contributing to infrastructure upgrades that result in participation benefits, including a \$74,000 contribution to this project. We view this project as a blueprint for councils and clubs across Tasmania to strive towards improvements and upgrades to unlock greater access and improve the experiences of all participants."

Anthony Osborn
Venue & Government Partnerships Manager, AFL Tasmania

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