

## **8.5. Election promise from the State Government to provide \$11 million contribution to upgrade North Sydney Oval to support women's sport**

Last Saturday morning, 11 February 2023, I attended North Sydney Oval representing Council for an announcement by Premier Dominic Perrottet. The announcement was also attended by Cricket NSW CEO, Lee Germon, Cricket Australia CEO, Nick Hockley, Sydney Sixers players, AFLW players, junior girls from North Sydney Bears Cricket, the Minister for Sport, Alistair Henskens MP and the State Members for North Shore and Willoughby.

Premier Perrottet promised that, if re-elected in March, his government would contribute \$11 million to upgrade North Sydney Oval for women's sport in partnership with Council and Cricket NSW. (See the media release: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/11-million-commitment-for-north-sydney-oval>)

The long-planned upgrade to North Sydney Oval, with the support of Cricket NSW, is to ensure that the Oval is fit for purpose to provide a home to women's cricket and other sporting codes, including AFLW and NRLW. North Sydney Oval will be served the new Metro Station on McLaren Street which will expand public transport access to the people of South West and North West Sydney (metro line).

In 2015 Council commenced long-planned upgrades to North Sydney Oval in a number of stages:

- 2016: installation of portable drop-in cricket wicket, new irrigation lines and improved lighting.
- 2018: new changing and medical rooms and anti-doping facilities to meet international standards and CCTV in line with first grade sporting installed at the historic Duncan Thompson stand.
- 2019: upgrade to St Leonards Park cricket practice.

By 2020 Council had completed the following further upgrades:

- bar, kiosk and merchandising facility improvements
- upgrading of player and officials change rooms and establishment of medical rooms and press facilities
- steel drainpipe and structural remediation work for McCartney, O'Reilly, Mollie Dive and Bob stands
- CCTV system installed
- refurbishment of media broadcasting facilities
- outdoor video screen
- improvements to the public announcement system
- outdoor video screen installation.

In addition to the \$11 million commitment from the State Government, if re-elected, Council will contribute \$2.5 million, Cricket NSW has pledged \$100,000 and AFL NSW \$50,000. The purpose of the funding is to provide:

- Accessibility improvements for spectators;
- Public toilet amenities refurbishment;
- Seating upgrades;
- Permanent dugouts on the boundary;
- Upgrade to existing community and stakeholder facilities;
- Improved player and games' officials facilities;
- Releveling playing surface; and
- Upgrade to food and beverage facilities.

**I therefore recommend:**

**1.THAT** Council urgently write to the Premier and Minister for Sport seeking the provision of the funding commitment prior to the State Election and the commencement of the “caretaker period”; and

**2.THAT** Council write to the Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Ministers for Sport and Women inviting them to a tour of North Sydney Oval and seeking a commitment that, if elected, they will meet the \$11 million funding commitment to upgrade North Sydney Oval to better support women’s sporting codes including cricket, AFL, NRL, football and Rugby Union.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**