

Reid Oval

Warrnambool's premier sporting facility

Introducing Cr Debbie Arnott

Hello, I'm Cr Debbie Arnott and I am the new Chair of the Reid Oval Project Control Group.

I'm really happy to be able to join the group, especially at such an exciting time. The grass is in, the pavilion is going up, and we are starting to get a feel for how everything will look when work is finished towards the end of 2021.

For many years I split my time between running local businesses and supporting my daughter on the netball court, so I know how important our sporting clubs and associations are for Warrnambool.

As a city with a population of 35,000, we punch well above our weight in terms of our sporting passion and ability, particularly in sports like football and cricket.

But in recent decades, our love of the game hasn't been matched with a showcase facility that we can truly be proud of.

If you've been to Albert Park lately, you can see with your own eyes that this is in the process of being rectified.

One of the key components of the new-and-improved Reid Oval is the provision of changerooms for women and girls, so it's fitting that right now we are in the midst of This Girl Can week.

This Girl Can looks at the barriers that prevent women from being physically active, and works to break them down.

As we've seen over recent years, female participation in traditionally male-dominated sports like football has exploded.

It's crucial that we have the infrastructure in place to allow anyone who wants to get involved in sport to be able to do so, regardless of their gender.

Also, as we've seen with some of the recent weather events, having an oval with the proper drainage and irrigation will help to keep the playing surface to a standard that befits the jewel in Warrnambool's sporting crown.

The Reid Oval redevelopment has been a long time coming. Our sporting community has made it very clear over a number of years that they want to see Reid Oval return to its rightful place as south-west Victoria's premier sporting facility.

I can't wait for the day when players return to the oval, but until then there's still a lot to be done, and I'd like to thank all of the tradespeople, contractors and Council staff who are working hard to make this project a reality.

Debbie Arnott



AFL pledges \$250,000 for project

In brilliant news, the AFL has committed \$250,000 for the Reid Oval Redevelopment.

Head of AFL Victoria and AFL legend Brad Scott came to Warrnambool on March 24 to make the announcement.

This funding when pooled with contributions from the Victorian Government (\$7 million), Council (\$3 million), Cricket Victoria (\$200,000) and Reid Oval user groups, has allowed us to carry out the full scope of the project, including upgrades to the adjacent training oval. This oval will have the same grass species (Santa Ana Couch) as the main oval, as well as better lighting and new fencing.



Other updates

The brickwork for the ground floor of the pavilion has been finished, with the slab for the next storey to be poured soon.

The foundations for the new light towers are in. The poles themselves will go up towards the end of April.

The turf is in

The grass that will form the hallowed ground of Reid Oval is in place.

In total, more than 19,000 square metres of turf has been laid. The turf variety is Santa Ana Couch – the same species used at places like Adelaide Oval, Ikon Park and Junction Oval.

From the air, you can see the reinforced grass that will form the goal squares, the washed turf of the cricket wicket, and the synthetic turf in front of the interchange benches.

The laying of turf was a big milestone, and goes a long way towards making Reid Oval look more like a sports ground.

Questions?

If there's anything you'd like clarified, please get in touch on **5559 4800** or reidoval@warrnambool.vic.gov.au.

