

# OKI JUBILEE OVAL -WORKS UPDATE

**OKI Jubilee Oval has been steadily upgraded since 2003. The fundamental philosophy behind the upgrades is that the capacity of the ground is to remain the same (at about 20,000 spectators), while the facilities to service them are greatly improved.**

Coupled to this is the notion that the oval is only part of the overall community asset of Kogarah Park, and as such improvements have been made and will continue to be made in the whole area. This area is shown below with key improvements numbered.



**\* KOGARAH PARK – Bounded by Park Street, Jubilee Avenue, Princes Highway, and English Street.**

The funding for these works has come from two sources: An \$8million dollar grant from the Federal Government - and all these funds have been expended on the completed works (1 to 3, 5 and 7). These works were finished in early 2006.

The second source of funding is a \$7million grant from the State Government for proposed works (4 and 9 to 10). A Steering Committee was set up to administer the funds in a transparent and open manner. The Steering Committee includes Councillors, Council's General Manager, and the CEO of the St George Dragons.

1. *Upgrade of grass area.* This area was levelled and re-turfed to provide a brand new and safe surface for people to play on. This area is also used by the Dragons club for training activities. The Dragons do not have exclusive rights for use, and the area is always open to all members of the public. As part of the upgrade, irrigation and drainage systems were installed to keep the area in good condition.
2. *New boundary fence.* As Kogarah Park faces the Princes Highway, which carries about 60,000 vehicles per day, it was important to replace the old and tired fence with a new fence sensitive to the heritage aspects of the park. The new fence beautifies the whole area and stops balls from reaching the Princes Highway.
3. *New Park Sign.* This sign is of sandstone construction and will highlight Kogarah Park. It is nearing completion and will have the logos of Kogarah Council and the St George Dragons.
4. *Replace Old Playground.* The existing playground is nearing the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced. As such, it was decided to replace the playground with a new state-of-the-art playground to cater for both toddlers and older children. Concept designs have been completed and Council is in the process of selecting a successful contractor.
5. *New Turnstiles.* New turnstiles were installed in English Street to relieve pressure on the main general admission entry on Jubilee Avenue. The new turnstiles also allow for disabled access.
6. *War Memorial Refurbishment.* Council has applied to the Department of Veterans Affairs for funding to refurbish the war memorial. Council is also investigating lighting around the cenotaph.
7. *New Sportsfield Lighting.* When night-games were previously held at the ground, transportable lights and generators were trucked to the site. This caused

major inconvenience to the surrounding residents in terms of noise from the generators, light spillage, and truck movements. This is now a thing of the past. The new lighting that has been installed uses the latest technology that dramatically reduces light spillage. The new lighting is also HDTV compliant that allows for quality television broadcasting to an international standard. The lights were highly commended at the National Electrical Contractors Awards (NECA) this year.



**\* Artist's perspective of the northern stand.**

8. *New Concourse Perimeter Seating and Northern Stand.* The original seating located on the concourse perimeter was made up of aluminium benches that were quite uncomfortable. The whole of the concourse has had the seating replaced with concrete tiers and individual plastic tilt-up seats to provide a more comfortable experience as well as providing for superior sight lines. The new sight lines ensure that all spectators have a good view of the field. A new northern stand (English Street end) was constructed above the concourse and also included a new operations room and kiosk.
9. *Proposed Extension of Existing Stadium.* The proposed extension will occur on either side of the existing stadium. This will see a continuation of the existing roof structure and two levels of seating. New corporate facilities and function areas will be incorporated into the extension to provide high quality facilities for VIPs and corporate club members. This work will also provide the opportunity to remove unsightly containers with noisy air conditioning units and to greatly improve the aesthetics of the rear of the stadium facing Park Street.
10. *Proposed Refurbishment of Existing Stadium.* The refurbishment will see the complete refurbishment of the change rooms as well as additional change facilities. There will be extra space added to include a museum and merchandise area. Community space will also be available for use by community organisations to hold meetings and host support groups. There is also the possibility of the Dragons football administration section relocating to the ground, providing a much needed full-time presence at the ground.



**\* Artist's perspective of the exterior of the stand.**

The Development Application for items 9 and 10 has been submitted and there will be intensive community consultation to ensure that local residents are satisfied with the end product. The new upgraded OKI Jubilee Oval will be a standout suburban sportsfield as well as a valuable asset to the community.