

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Melville Oval Facilities Redevelopment Project



### Background

**The Melville Oval in Hamilton was allocated for public recreation use in 1902 and the Edwardian Grandstand was developed around 1909. Since that time, the site has become a prominent sporting facility for the local community and is a focal point of Hamilton – particularly with its heritage features.**

In July 2023, Southern Grampians Shire Council began the redevelopment of facilities at Melville Oval to meet the needs of user groups, spectators, and the broader community commencing with the demolition of buildings to make way for the new pavilion and extension to the grandstand.

This much-anticipated project will include a new pavilion providing a social room and change facilities for netballers, officials and umpires, two new netball courts and spectators shelter, refurbishment of the heritage Grandstand to include new club changerooms.

The project also requires some changes to Market Place, north of the precinct, to make space for the new facilities.

The construction tender was awarded in February 2023 to Ultrabuild Pty Ltd.

Due to the heritage overlay across the Melville Oval precinct, a Planning Permit was required to conduct the work, which Council approved at the July 2023 Council meeting.

### Why is the work being done?

The need for redevelopment works at Melville Oval was first identified in the Hamilton Structure Plan in 2011. The 2020 Hamilton CBD Masterplan included concept plans for a new pavilion and changes to the southern end of the reserve improving pedestrian connection between the Hamilton CBD and Melville reserve.

The facilities at Melville Oval do not meet current standards for netball, Australian Rules Football, nor spectator expectations. These works will result in a significant improvement for the reserve user groups and the community.

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### How much will the project cost?

The \$8.4 million project is supported by a \$8.4 million Federal Government grant.

### When will the project start and finish?

The project started in July 2023 and it is anticipated that construction will be completed by December 2024.

### What does the project include?

- Refurbishment of the existing heritage grandstand ground floor to include new club changerooms, first aid and club official rooms, storage and canteen (total size 21metres x 20 metres)
- Construction of a new pavilion including a social room, kitchen and bar, netball change rooms, first-aid facilities, and netball umpire rooms (total size 21 metres x 24 metres)
- Construction of two new netball courts with competition-grade lighting and a spectator shelter with seating.
- Changes to Market Place to accommodate the establishment of the new netball court on the western boundary of Melville Reserve, retaining through traffic access.
- Removal of sections of the parameter reserve fence and replacement to ensure continued secure reserve parameter fencing for future ticketed events.
- Retained car parks along the eastern side of Market Place.
- Minor landscaping improvements.

### Will the netball courts have lights?

The netball courts will be serviced with eight LED floodlights erected on 12-metre-high poles. The lights have an average lux of 200 and a maximum lux of 310. The lights will directly onto the courts for optimal lighting with no light spill to the surrounding area.

### What will be removed?

Items removed to make way for the new facilities included:

- The rear (north) section of the existing grandstand.
- The existing shed and club shelter southwest of the grandstand.
- The parameter fence at Market Place (opposite Dryden Street).
- Spectator seating and part of the oval fencing around the northern perimeter of the oval.
- Some trees and hedges.

Overhead electricity lines will to be relocated underground and various other assets, including drainage pits, will require relocation and renewal.

The tender for the demolition of existing buildings (minus the original grandstand) was awarded to Murrhy Demolition Pty Ltd.



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### How will the new pavilion look?

The new pavilion will provide large glass windows from the social rooms facing south across the reserve.

### What kind of trees will be planted?

Flowering gums will be planted on the western reserve boundary as a part of the Market Place partial road discontinuance. Garden beds will be planted out with native Australian species.

### What's happening with the playground?

The existing playground will receive some minor improvements.

### What will happen with the old netball courts and CFA running track?

The Hamilton CBD Master Plan identified the decommission of the existing netball courts and relocation of the CFA running track.

The new netball courts replace the existing courts. Further engagement with the CFA will investigate options for the future CFA training facilities.

### Who is doing the work?

The construction contract has been awarded to local building contractor Ultrabuild CG from Hamilton. This contract award also includes local sub-contractors and local suppliers.

### Can the public go on site during the construction period?

The public can access the cenotaph, old netball courts, public toilets and CFA running track during the construction period. The remainder of the reserve will be a secure works site with no access permitted.

We strongly encourage the public to follow all safety signage and adhere to restricted areas during the life of the project.

### Where will the Kangaroos train and play during the construction works?

The Kangaroos Hamilton Football Netball Club will use other grounds and facilities across both Hamilton and the Shire until the project works are completed.

### Will the ANZAC Day Dawn Service still be held at the cenotaph Melville Oval?

Yes, the Dawn Service will still be able to be held at the cenotaph as it is located outside the construction zone for the project.



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## What changes is Council planning to make to Market Place?

The Melville Oval redevelopment requires extra space specifically for the new pavilion and netball courts. A partial discontinuance of Market Place is required however this will not impact dual way traffic flows.

Council is currently processing the rezoning part of Market Place from General Residential Zone to Public Park Recreation Zone so the required areas can be consolidated with the existing oval site.

## Project Enquiries

### Council's Project Management Office

Email: [projects@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](mailto:projects@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au) or telephone 5573 0444.

## Where will the Hamilton 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort' be located during construction?

As Melville Oval won't be accessible to the public during the construction period, the Bushfire Place of Last Resort will be located at the Hamilton Showgrounds until further notice.



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