



Community Update – April 2025

# Leichhardt Oval Renovation Final Design Concepts

Following the commitment to the upgrade of Leichhardt Oval, the *Eighth Wonder of the World*, by all three tiers of Government, Inner West Council has developed the final design of the renovation.

INNER WEST

COX

EY



INNER WEST

# How we got here. From community-led masterplan to concept design.

The design of the long-awaited refurbishment of Leichhardt Oval is progressing steadily with the release of the final design to be submitted to the NSW Government for approval. The finalisation of this design is the culmination of a decade long struggle to bring a much-needed upgrade to this iconic ground and valuable community asset.

In June 2024, the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments formed a funding partnership to secure the future of Leichhardt Oval. The Commonwealth committing \$20 million to the project, with the NSW Government and the Inner West Council investing \$10 million each towards the upgrade.

Inner West Council is taking great care to get the planning and design of this renovation right to ensure maximum value for every dollar invested at Leichhardt Oval.

Which is why Ernst and Young (EY) were appointed as project managers in August 2024 and Cox Architecture brought on board to finalise the concept designs for the upgrade in December 2024.

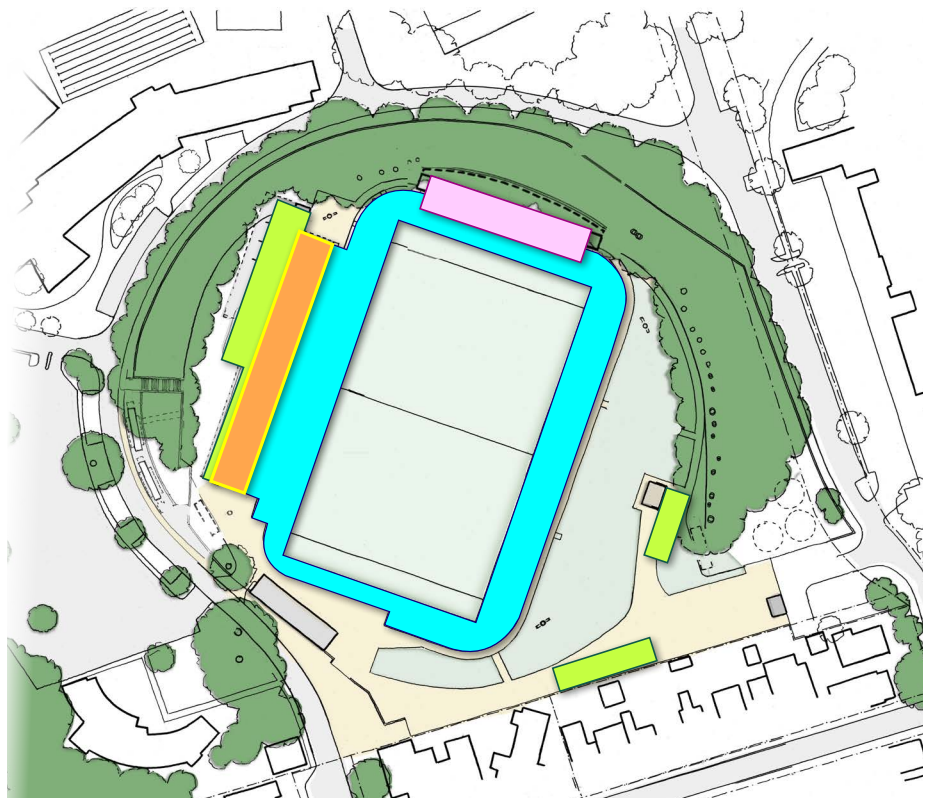
EY bring their experience from overseeing big stadium projects including Allianz Stadium, CommBank Stadium and the new Penrith Stadium.

Cox Architecture bring a wealth of expertise and some serious runs on the board when it comes to designing and redesigning some of Australia's most outstanding sporting venues. The final designs are now being released so that the Inner West Council can submit a State Significant Development Application to the NSW Government, with construction of the upgrade to commence at the end of the 2026 winter season.

Importantly, these designs will bring the facilities for players, spectators and clubs at Leichhardt Oval up to NRL standard and achieve full compliance for accessibility and safety.



- Western Grandstand  
Player Amenities
- New consistent seating  
for the entire Seating  
Bowl and Western  
Grandstand + Premium  
Products
- Northern Grandstand
- Remaining Elements



## Next Steps and Timeline

These final design concepts have been developed to assist Council's decision-making on how to achieve best value-for-money and improved facilities for Leichhardt Oval.

Inner West Council will now proceed with submitting a State Significant Development application for the renovation of the ground, based on these designs.

During the approval and procurement process Council will continue to value-engineer the design to achieve maximum value for taxpayers' money.

The outcome of the renovation will be that historic Leichhardt Oval is brought up to modern standards for women's and men's rugby league, soccer, rugby union and for all forms of community sport.

Construction of the renovation is due to commence at the end of the 2026 winter season.

PLANNING APPROVALS  
AND CONSENTS  
JUNE 2025 TO JUNE 2026

CONTRACTOR ENGAGED  
SEPTEMBER 2026

CONSTRUCTION  
COMPLETION AND  
HANDOVER 2028 SEASON

Artists impression of the view from the mezzanine "club" area within the Western Grandstand

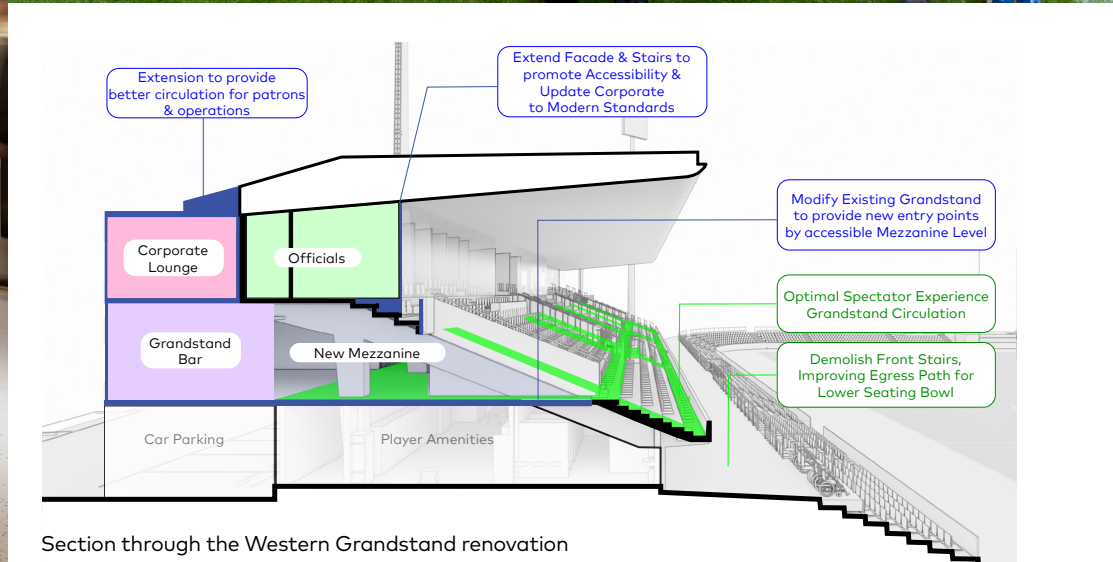




Artists impression of the new mezzanine level

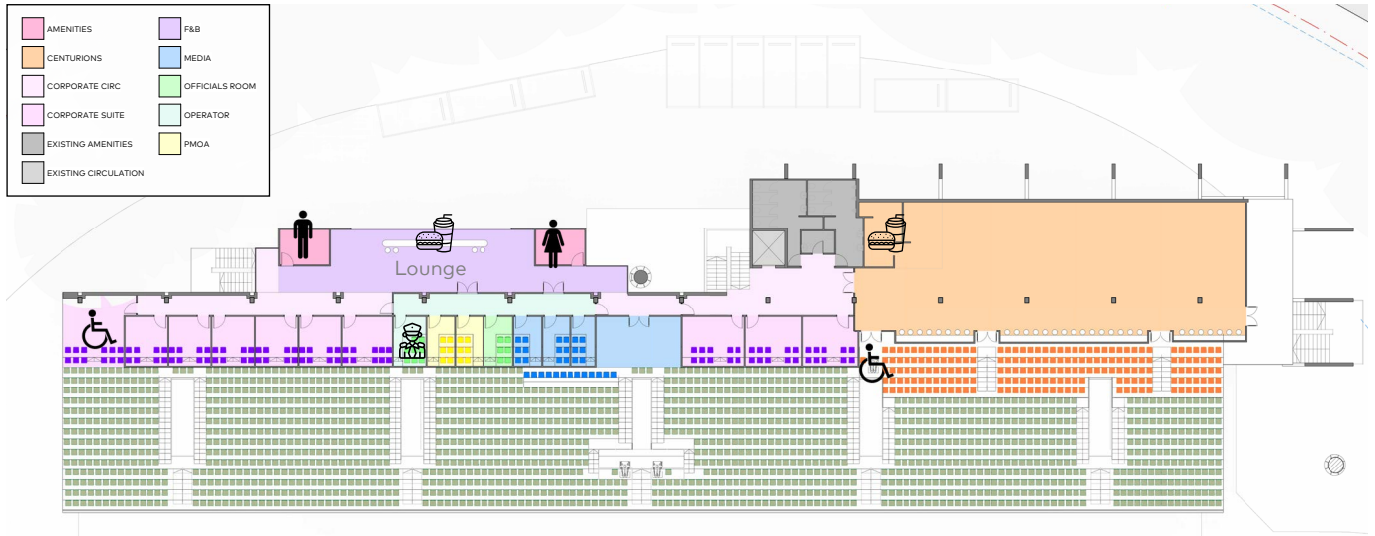


Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Mayor Darcy Byrne at the funding announcement

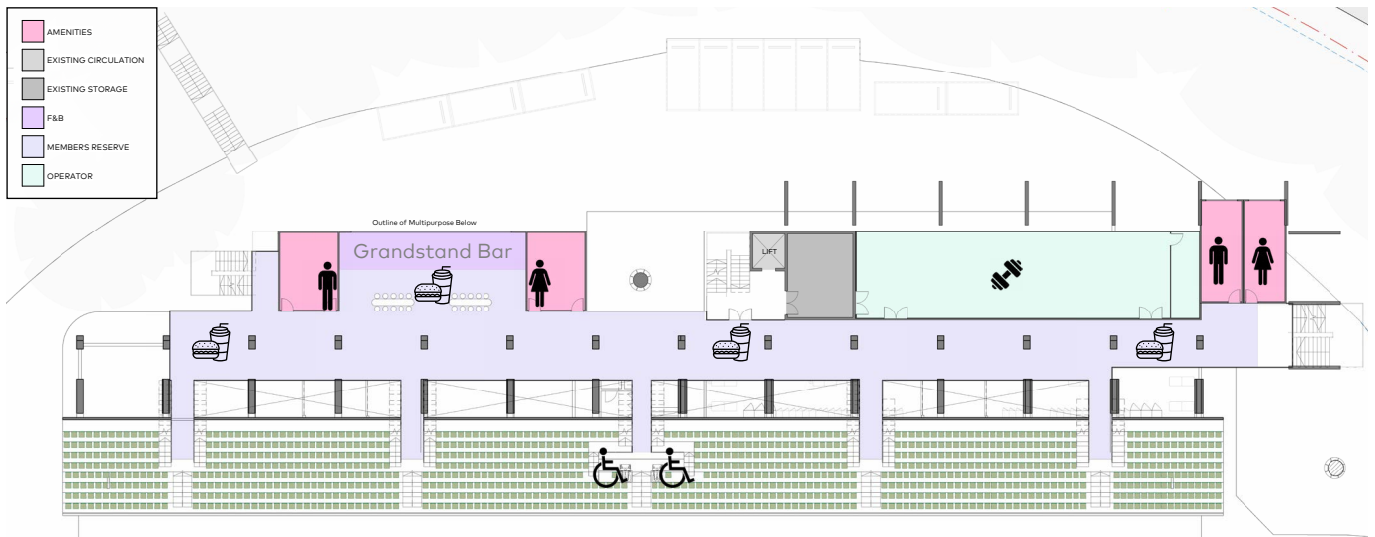


Section through the Western Grandstand renovation

# Western Grandstand Upgrades



Corporate and Media Level Plan



New Mezzanine Level Plan



Ground Level Plan



The designs that are being developed for consideration by Council are;



### 1. Western Grandstand Player Amenities

- Demolition of the existing ground floor of the Western Grandstand, and construction of new NRL compliant players facilities within an extended footprint
- All new player and officials' facilities, including 4 change rooms, 2 shared strapping rooms, 2 shared recovery rooms, doping control room, team kit/briefing rooms, player medical room, officials' change room and amenities
- A new mezzanine level gym
- Reconfiguration of ground floor public amenities and toilets



### 2. Western Grandstand – modern facilities for spectators, sponsors and media

- All new 'Stadium' seats for comfortable, safe and equitable experience, with allowance for add-ons (cupholder/padded seats)
- Demolition of eastern stairs to improve access to seating bowl
- New direct access to Western Grandstand from a mezzanine level with dedicated corporate, food & beverage offerings
- Reconfiguration of corporate, coaches and media boxes, and back-of-house corridors, to be air-conditioned and accessible
- Renovation and reconfiguration of the Centurion's Lounge to allow direct corporate access to dedicated seating in the Western Grandstand



### 3. Lower Seating Bowl - All new 'stadium type' seating to ensure safety and compliance

- Replacing the old, tired and non-compliant seating around the Oval with new 'Stadium' seats
- Providing multiple wheelchair accessible viewing areas and ensuring the ground meets requirements for safety, accessibility and amenity
- Demolition and relocation of northern public amenities block
- New fencing surrounding the field of play



### 4. New Northern Grandstand

- New lightweight grandstand with 1,500 seats constructed over and adjacent to the northern seating bowl renovation
- New concourse level amenities, food and beverage offerings dedicated to the northern grandstand



### 5. Inner West Museum of Rugby League

- A new museum that represents the five foundational Rugby League clubs - Annandale, Balmain, Glebe, Newtown, and Wests
- Renovating the caretaker's cottage to prepare for the installation of the new exhibits
- Development of an immersive, virtual museum that provides alternative access
- Ready for opening before the 2026 Season