

BUILT BACK BETTER

STADIUM TARANAKI 100% READY AND FINISHED

The vision was ambitious: to create the best regional stadium in New Zealand. The journey to realise that vision began eight years ago and has involved massive repairs to the West Stand to meet earthquake safety standards and the demolition and then construction of a new East Stand. That journey is complete, and the people of Taranaki now have a premier sports venue available for the whole community: Stadium Taranaki.

Piles driven 38 metres into the ground, demolition of a whole stand, a new roof, eco-friendly lighting, a hybrid grass pitch, construction of a new stand – Stadium Taranaki's redevelopment has been an enormous project from start to finish.

The repairs, upgrades and rebuilding work have all combined into the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by Taranaki Regional Council.

As owner of the venue formerly known as Yarrow Stadium through the Taranaki Stadium Trust, it was the Council which has overseen the repairs and rebuilding work, which began in 2019 after the stadium's East and West stands were found to be earthquake-prone.

Council Chair Craig Williamson says the completed project is a first-class facility and he is delighted with the finished stadium.

"Our mission when we kicked off the redevelopment in 2019 was to build the best regional stadium in the country. We've now achieved that with a fantastic facility that the people of Taranaki can be rightly proud of," says Mr Williamson.

"We're delighted to have created a multi-purpose facility capable of hosting local, regional and international sport and entertainment events and a venue that can be used by the whole community."

For the West Stand work, the seats and bleachers (tiers which the seats sit on) were removed, stabilisation piles driven 38m in the south end and 12m towards the north end and then to future-proof the stand, a new roof has been added. The repaired stand reopened on 3 September 2022.

While this work was taking place, the Main Field was made fit for purpose. This pitch previously experienced drainage problems and needed overhauling to enable it to be used as much as possible for different sports and events.

We've now installed the hybrid GrassMaster turf – the same turf that's used on premier sports grounds around the globe. This is artificial fibres with grass grown through it and is more resilient, giving it shorter recovery times between games.

The lighting has also been upgraded with new LED lights which not only provide 50% more illumination but are more energy efficient, reducing power usage by 30%.

Plan B was needed when work started on the East Stand. The original plan had been to repair the building but the ground conditions were found to be unsuitable for a viable repair, so the stand had to be demolished and a new stand built in its place.

Once the stand was demolished (back in November 2021), Taranaki firm Clelands Construction (which also did the West Stand repairs) started foundation work with steel piles put in as deep as 30m while hundreds of cubic metres of concrete was used as well.

The stand is double sided so fans can watch two pitches at once, has fantastic changing rooms and hospitality facilities and has flexible and scalable seating to cater for events and fixtures at all levels, including major international sporting events.

To mark the completion, we held an Extravaganza on 4 May where around 2,000 people came along to enjoy games and sport on the Main Field and a look around the East Stand with those attending giving the project a huge 'thumbs up'.

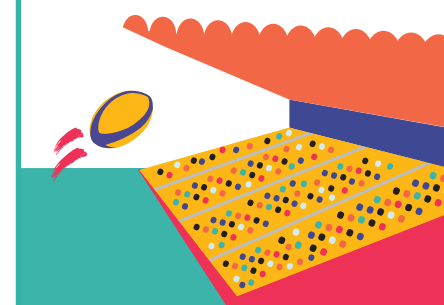
Now the stadium is ready for the whole community to use and enjoy.

"Stadium Taranaki is an iconic venue which has seen so many great matches and events that live long in the memory like All Blacks games. We're now ready to make new memories with the venue 100% open for big games, community events and entertainment," adds Mr Williamson.

YOUR HOUSE OUR SHOUT!

Come along and check out the new-look stadium and see the Yarrows Taranaki Bulls for free on 11 June.

It's your house and our shout – head to taranakirc.nz/stadium-tickets to get your ticket to see the Ranfurly Shield defence against the King Country Rams.



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