



An aerial view of the AELEC site looking north east. The new square outdoor arena is on the left with the smaller rectangular warm-up arena in the centre.

As the Project Manager for the Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence, I am pleased to update you on the wonderful new sporting facilities being delivered for our community.

A lot has changed on site at the Australian Equine Livestock and Events Centre (AELEC) since work started in September last year with the new outdoor equestrian arena and warm up arena substantially complete. Extensions to the Tamworth Sports Dome have started and Council staff and specialist consultants are finalising the design and specifications for the cycling and athletics facilities.

EQUINE ARENAS

Construction of the new 100metre x 100metre outdoor arena and warm-up arena was prioritised to fit in around the AELEC's busy event schedule. Both make use of the innovative world class surface, the industry-leading Ebb and Flow System. Competitors at the North and

North West Showjumping Club Championships trialed the new arenas in late February 2018 as part of the commissioning process and gave them a huge tick of approval.

The Tamworth facility is now one of only four in NSW to feature the Ebb and Flow Arena System, which has been used in Europe at top dressage and showjumping arenas for many years. Ebb and Flow is a water-based system where the amount of water rises and falls through a special pipe system to provide the required feel of the sand-covered surface.

The new main outdoor arena is believed to be the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and further enhances the AELEC's reputation as the premier (non-racing) equestrian facility in Australia.

Following completion of the arenas, Council staff are now working hard to finalise the design details for the finishing works which will be constructed later in 2018.



Project Manager Mark Gardiner with one of the gravel stockpiles near Jack Smyth Drive and, inset, a close-up view.



CYCLING AND ATHLETICS

The bulk earthworks needed to produce the ground levels required for the new cycling and athletics facilities have been completed.

Some large mounds of soil and stones are visible to anyone visiting the AELEC, Sports Dome or hockey complex on Jack Smyth Drive.

The earthworks were planned to produce a significant surplus of material to be used elsewhere in the project. The resulting excavated rock was stockpiled and crushed on site in a sustainable process which also has cost reduction benefits. The stockpiled gravel will remain on site and be used in the near future for construction of the cycling and athletics facilities. Any excess material will be used to provide pavement material in the upgrade of Jack Smyth Drive and the new car parks.

SPORTS DOME

Construction has started on the Sports Dome extension. In January, Council endorsed O'Donnell and Hanlon as the successful tenderer to design and construct the extension. The contractor is now finalising the designs in consultation with Council and in March they established on site and started preliminary work.

The extension will provide an additional indoor sports court to the Dome, an upgraded netball control room, storage areas and computer server room.

Council Sports and Recreation staff have already met with key user groups and are working with them to limit the impact construction may have on their regular weekly competitions and major events. With Tamworth Netball Association this has led to Council providing a temporary portable office and a public address system.



A trial run for the new outdoor equine arena featuring an innovative world class surface.

For an upcoming basketball tournament, Council has secured access to a court off-site to provide the number of courts needed.

WHAT'S NEXT

Once the design and specifications for the cycling and athletics facilities are finalised later this month, Council will start the tender process for construction. A successful tenderer will be chosen in late June to start on site early next financial year. This represents a change from the original construction schedule, with a slight extension of time to the project to ensure Council and the community achieve the best possible outcome and optimise value for money.

Council is progressing detailed engineering designs for the Jack Smyth Drive upgrade and new car parks to be delivered as part of the project. Another improvement in the overall delivery of the project has been to prioritise the new sports infrastructure ahead of the road and car parks. This will ultimately give the local community greater value for money, but there will be a slight extension to the time needed to complete the project.

Other key considerations throughout the design process for all of the project components have included landscaping, accessibility, sustainability and security for the precinct.



An image captured from a drone looking towards Rodeo Drive and showing the earthworks for the new athletics and cycling facilities behind the Sports Dome.

FIRST PHASE OVERVIEW

The Australian Government is providing \$8.5 million, the NSW Government is contributing \$4.25 million, including \$3.25 million from the Restart NSW Regional Tourism Infrastructure program, and a further \$4.45 million is being provided by Tamworth Regional Council (\$2 million financial and \$2.45 million in-kind) toward the delivery of the Centre of Sporting Excellence.

This first phase of the Centre, with a budget of \$17.2 million, comprises:

- an outdoor velodrome and criterium track;
- an outdoor equestrian arena, warm-up arena, carpark and amenities at the AELEC;
- a synthetic athletics centre;
- the sports dome extension; and
- road upgrades and car parking.

For more information about the project, see our website www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au/major-projects

The third project update will be issued in July 2018. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email trc@tamworth.nsw.gov.au and ask to be added to our Centre of Sporting Excellence distribution list. For all other enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me, Centre of Sporting Excellence Project Manager, Mark Gardiner, on 6767 5003.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gardiner', written over a white background.

Mark Gardiner
Project Manager
Northern Inland Centre of Sporting Excellence
Tamworth Regional Council