

GMHBA Stadium at Kardinia Park: Stage 5 Redevelopment

The Kardinia Park Stage 5 Redevelopment has increased the GMHBA stadium's capacity to 40,000, further cementing its status as Australia's largest-capacity sporting and entertainment venue in regional cities.



With the new northern grandstand (known as the Joel Selwood Stand) now complete, remaining components of the redevelopment – the entry plaza (named Djilang Plaza), the Geelong Sports Museum, unisex changing rooms, event spaces, a regional cricket hub, and the addition of operational areas such as media facilities and a crowd management centre – are on track for completion in the first quarter of 2024. The redevelopment enables GMHBA stadium to become a truly multipurpose venue.

A roof above: engineering marvel unveiled

A standout feature of the new stand is its impressive roof structure, which extends 30 metres over the seating bowl and covers 75 % of the stand's area. Comprising 17 roof modules, each boasts a fully clad truss spanning 43 metres in length and 10 metres in width, capable of bearing more than 50 tonnes in weight.

Each roof module underwent comprehensive pre-assembly, incorporating structural steel elements, cladding, PV panels, AV systems, lighting, and stormwater drainage. Pre-assembly took place within the Kardinia Park Precinct at two satellite sites around the existing stadium, utilising purpose-built assembly jigs. This approach effectively eliminated the risk associated with completing work at heights and resulted in no lost time injuries during pre-assembly and installation.

Innovative design and construction strategies

BESIX Watpac's commitment to excellence extends to innovative design and construction strategies. Close collaboration with stakeholders ensured meticulously coordinated design and documentation, as well as compliance with authority and regulatory requirements. The implementation of alternative building precast and roof module structural systems optimised construction programmes and minimised day-to-day running and maintenance costs.



Community-centric commitment

BESIX Watpac is committed to the communities in which it operates. The GMHBA project successfully achieved its goal of allocating a minimum of 1 % of procurement to Indigenous-owned companies. It was also committed to purchasing goods and services from social enterprises, fostering partnerships with local organisations such as GROW, the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, Kinaway, and Social Traders, underscoring its dedication to local engagement. Additionally, BESIX Watpac sponsored the local Geelong Women's Cricket club, providing a pathway into construction for two young cadets.

Community enrichment beyond construction

BESIX Watpac's commitment extends beyond construction, injecting AU\$56,000 (approximately €34,000) into the Geelong community. The BESIX Watpac Community Fund has supported over eight organisations, including Geelong Mums, GenU, Ladder, and the Koori Aspirations and Career Day. Staff members also actively participated in charitable drives, showcasing a holistic approach to community engagement.

Project details

GMHBA Stadium

Location

Geelong, Australia

Client

Kardinia Park Stadium Trust

Contract type

Design & Build

Construction period

2021 - 2024

Contract value

AU\$142 million
(approx. €86 million)