

Rugby Park

Take 3. Te Papa Whutupaoro

Rugby Park is known as the home of rugby in Southland. Rugby Park has traditionally been used exclusively for rugby union. There has been one major commercial event outside of rugby union held at Rugby Park since 2016.

Council intends to purchase Rugby Park from the Invercargill City Charitable Trust. Following a review of the future needs for a regional rectangular sports field complex, Rugby Park remains the best location for this for the next fifteen years.

Engineering reports have shown that while Rugby Park is basically sound, there are a number of structural issues which mean that areas of seating have been closed and some spaces cannot be used. There are building leaks which have led to mould. The building has 29 years of useful life left.

What is the project?

Council's preferred option to improve Rugby Park is presented as a staged approach. Council will fund Stage One (deferred maintenance and strengthening) and future funding would be required for Stage Two (facility improvement to create a flexible-use facility).

Council commissioned a report by Otium Planning Group for options to develop Rugby Park which included six options. Of their options, Council's preferred option is Option 5.

The two-stage project would see Rugby Park become a multi-use facility as well as ensuring rugby can be continued to be played into the future.

Stage One

Stage One of the project is to carry out essential infrastructure condition based improvements. It involves addressing the toxic mould present, the structural integrity risks of multiple structures and deferred maintenance issues.

Stage Two

Stage Two of the project would be to improve the overall facility. The current northern, eastern and western facilities will be demolished and replaced with a combination of open green and hardstand space. The grandstand will undergo remedial works and upgrades will be made to stadium lighting, Wi-Fi and signage.

The second stage of the project will only proceed if Council is successful in attracting funding from community funders.

Why is Council proposing this option?

This option is a financially viable short to medium term solution that will ensure the needs of the Southland



community for a regional rectangular sports field complex are met for the next 15 years.

What are other options?

Council's other option is to invest in Rugby Park to make it structurally sound. Stage One of the project would be completed but not stage two. This option would be funded by council and cost \$4.9 million. This would mean that rugby could continue to be played at Rugby Park but would limit the options to play other sports.

When would it be delivered?

Council's preferred option has an expected completion date of 2025.

How much will it cost?

Council's preferred option will have a total cost of \$9.4 million. Stage one will cost \$4.9 million. This will be funded by Council. The remainder of the cost will require further funding from external funders.

How can I find more information?

[Rugby Park Future Development Commercial Options and Opportunity report February 2021.](#)

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