



22 October 2025

**An open letter to all Club members & stakeholders,**

The new season is well underway on-field, and we have certainly been very busy off-field. Amongst the many initiatives being progressed by the Committee, there are some exciting developments to our playing and training facilities. Many of you will have seen these may have questions around what's happening and the timeline for completion. We wanted to keep our members up to date on these key activities.

GMO Playing Field

- As was noted in Nathan's end of season report, the central square has been fully replaced. This has involved a total rebuild of the pitch table, improved drainage around the table and better shaving of the collar to reduce the run-up inclines for our bowlers. This project has been on the Committee's radar for some time, and it is outstanding that Council have driven it to a conclusion.
- Council has taken possession from the contractors and preparations for bringing the centre square on-line are well underway. Council is targeting return of the square for matches from the new year at the latest.
- We are aligned with Council in ensuring a proper preparation and reasoned return to play, reducing the risks that the GMO pitches will be underdone. Both Council and the Club want the best product possible for our players.
- Further, Council is also:
  - updating the current picket fence with a new long-lasting metal, white powder-coated fence;
  - improving the sightscreens with new white replacements; and
  - working to improve the quality of the outfield with targeted weeding and feeding.
- Works are also slated outside the fence, with new park benches, returfed spectator areas and an overall tidy up.
- Hopefully, next in line will be new shaded spectator seating – while no firm plans have been developed and much depends on funding, Council and the Club agree this would be a good initiative.

GMO Nets

- As also noted by Nathan, another project that has been brewing for some time is the upgrade of our training nets – some key elements:
  - the chain link lane dividers and roof removed and replaced with soft netting;
  - retractable lane dividers will allow a single turf block to be prepared when retracted and up to 6 net lanes when in place (Council have indicated that they should be able to provide 3-4 turf net lanes each week for training – which with the new synthetic nets will provide for 6-7 nets in total for each training session);
  - the gates have been extended out to allow a greater run up area – this will be raised to create a more level approach to the pitch block;
  - improved drainage is being installed to shift water run off away from the pitch block;
  - the 2 existing synthetic nets have been upgraded with new netting and surfaces and will be locked for Club use, and a new public synthetic net has been added; and
  - the result is we will have a top shelf training facility with between 6-7 nets available for each training session (depending on weather and other impacts).

- All netting has been installed, and works have commenced this week on the repair of the GMO nets turf areas and pitch block.
- The new synthetic nets have been released by Council and we are already using them for training.
- The Committee is in regular communications with Council staff regarding forecasted project finalization, and we look forward to updating our members as the works progress.
- We have resumed mid-week club training at GMO using the synthetic nets while works are being done to the turf areas.

#### Sutherland Oval

- Council has already refurbished the change rooms and umpire room – cleaning, painting, new tiling, adding shower doors, adding storage.
- Council's intention is to also replace the picket fencing around the oval though a timeframe has not yet been confirmed for when this will be delivered.
- There will also be a general tidying of the precinct, including some fixing up of the parking areas.
- The general quality of the pitch square and outfield will benefit from the newly resourced Council turf team and precinct structured approach.

#### Tonkin Oval

- Council's intention is to also replace the picket fencing around the oval though a timeframe has not yet been confirmed for when this will be delivered.
- The general quality of the pitch square and outfield will benefit from the newly resourced Council turf team and precinct structured approach.

The Committee and Council have close and proactive lines of communication that enhance our working towards improving the facilities available to our Club. We are most grateful for Council's commitment to resource their newly created 'turf team', representing a new approach to the management of Council's turf precincts. This team is led by personnel with specific cricket experience at grade level and with NSW ovals. Focus is on precincts, not just ovals or pitches (to use cricket as an example) – hence the many initiatives both inside and outside the picket fence.

We are excited by what has been accomplished to date, and what this relationship can build moving forward.

As other major Club developments unfold, and to the extent we can noting confidentiality and commercial-in-confidence requirements at times when dealing with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties, we will endeavour to keep Club members informed initiatives are developed.

Regards

**Roy Amos**  
Secretary  
**Sutherland District Cricket Club**