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Oval upgrade a sure winner

Scott Warren

Drummoyne Oval could become a hot spot for major sporting events under a new plan to spend \$2.7 million on upgrading the harbourside facility.

The State Government has said it will put forward \$1.7 million, while \$500,000 will be invested by Cricket NSW. Canada Bay Council will pay \$300,000 and AFL NSW will provide \$200,000.

Drummoyne Rugby Club, UTS Balmain Cricket Club and the AFL clubs for Balmain and Drummoyne are based at the ground.

"It's already a fantastic facility," Drummoyne MP Angela D'Amore said. "It's in a beautiful location, and just imagine what a \$2.7 million upgrade will bring."

"Not only will it increase the seating and see improvements to the lighting, the fencing and the playing surface, but it will also attract major events," she said. "Already the oval has hosted State cricket matches - maybe after the upgrade we might get even more high-level sport being played here."

The planned upgrade will include the installation of broadcast-standard lighting which will allow day-night cricket and night football matches to be played - something that none of the grounds hosting the Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean feature.

The scoreboard will be upgraded to an electronic model, turf practice wickets will be laid, the toilet facilities will be expanded, 44 car parking spaces will be built, a retractable roof will be installed in the main pavilion, tiered seating will be constructed outside the pavilion and the ground's security facilities will be upgraded.

A spokesman for Cricket NSW said the upgrade would build on Drummoyne Oval's history of hosting domestic one-day matches and NSW 2nd XI matches.

"The redevelopment will ensure the oval is still in a position to bid for major matches," the spokesman said. "Fox Sports, which broadcasts the Ford Ranger Cup, has been keen to schedule as many matches as possible on Wednesday nights, so if the lights are as good as they require, that will make Drummoyne an option for those games."



Drummoyne MP Angela D'Amore at Drummoyne Oval which is set to receive a \$2.7 million upgrade. Photo: Melanie Russell