



Sports & Leisure

ENDURING PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS HISTORIC GRAND FINAL

A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP WITH ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S PREEMINENT SPORTING VENUES HAS REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE WITH BESIX WATPAC COMPLETING A MAJOR REFURBISHMENT OF THE ICONIC 'GABBA' JUST IN TIME TO HOST AN HISTORIC NATIONAL GRAND FINAL.

// Project details

GABBA UPGRADE – STAGE 2

Location
Brisbane, Australia

Client
Queensland Government

Contract type
Managing Contractor

Construction Period
February-October 2020

Contract value
35 million Australian dollars



GABBA STADIUM, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA



25 year

CLIENT PARTNERSHIP

185

FULL-TIME LOCAL JOBS
AT PEAK OF PROJECT

90 %

MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT
LOCALLY SOURCED

54

APPRENTICES WORKING
ON PROJECT

The latest refurbishment of the Brisbane Cricket Ground has transformed the stadium, affectionately known as the Gabba, with revitalised bars and eateries, new corporate and media areas, and additional seating that offers increased connectivity with nearby function rooms.

Project Manager Owen Burford said perhaps the most notable improvement was the new entry gates and ticketing areas complete with spectacular, variable colour LED lighting and video signage.

"This sophisticated new addition will significantly streamline the entry and exit points, greatly enhancing the fan experience," Owen said.

Once a modest 13,000-seat sporting ground, the venue has been transformed into a 42,000-seat, state-of-the-art facility by BESIX Watpac over six stages between 1994 and 2005.

"Our enduring partnership with the Gabba has seen our boots on the ground at this beloved local venue in various stages over the past 25 years, and it was terrific to be welcomed back again," Owen said.

Over the years it has hosted world-renowned sporting and cultural events including parts of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, international test cricket matches and high-profile performers.

But no one could have anticipated, when works commenced earlier this year, that it would also be hosting the Australian Football League Grand Final in October.

Never held outside Melbourne, a Covid lockdown in Victoria saw the match having to be played elsewhere for the first time in the competition's 122-year history – and it was the Gabba that won the honour.

"When we started works back in February, we were expecting to debut the upgrades at the Twenty20 Cricket Grand Final. Suddenly we were on the really big stage with the AFL Grand Final, the first time it's ever been played outside of Melbourne," Owen said.

"It was a great way to launch the enhanced Gabba and we accelerated works to ensure the Grand Final could take place on time."

The event was a resounding success, with the restricted crowd of 30,000 fans drinking in the enhanced atmosphere and fresh new look of the upgraded stadium.