CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Football Park (currently also known by its sponsored name of AAMI Stadium) is an Australian rules football stadium located in West Lakes, a western suburb of Adelaide, the state capital of South Australia, Australia. It was built in 1973 by the South Australian National Football League and opened in 1974 and was until the end of the 2013 season the home ground of both the Adelaide Crows and Port Adelaide Power, who play in the Australian Football League (AFL). With a seated capacity of 51,515 Football Park is the fifth largest Australian rules football stadium in Australia in terms of crowd capacity, behind Docklands Stadium in Melbourne (56,347), Stadium Australia in Sydney (81,500) and the Melbourne Cricket Ground (100,018). Adelaide Oval will host the Adelaide Crows and the Port Adelaide Power Australian Football League teams from 2014 onwards and has a capacity of 54,500; it is the fourth largest football stadium in Australia.¹

Ground was broken for Football Park in 1971, giving the SANFL its own venue after years of playing out of the Adelaide Oval which is controlled by the South Australian Cricket Association.² The SANFL had wanted their own home stadium for a number of years and finally settled on the undeveloped swampland at West Lakes in 1970 (the same year as the similarly designed, but larger VFL Park opened in Melbourne).³


The stadium hosted its first football game on 4 May 1974,[1] an SANFL match between Central District and North Adelaide. The first goal was kicked by North’s Barry Hearl, but The Bulldogs won the game defeating The Roosters 21.13 (139) to 16.13 (109).⁴

Intended to have a capacity of around 80,000, Football Park was originally standing room only in the outer (along with the usual crush barriers) with bench seating in the main grandstand and ended up with a capacity of approximately 62,000.⁵ Bench seating was gradually added to the stadium’s bowl section, and the concourse roof was finished in 1982, by which time the grounds capacity had settled to around 52,000. The new roof gave the outer of the ground a limited number of under cover seats, as well as opening up more space for advertising boards. Television screens showing the games in progress at the ground are also in place under the concourse roof, as well as in the members area.

Football Parks four light towers were finished by 1984, with all night games in Adelaide moving from the suburban grounds (Norwood Oval and Thebarton Oval) to league headquarters for the next 16 years. Following the Adelaide Crows joining the AFL in 1991, and being joined by Port Adelaide Power in 1997, new corporate “superboxes” were build on top of the southern concourse, stretching from the scoreboard around to the members grandstand. The following year (1998) the

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