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Reginald Smith

HEAD OFFICE - SYDNEY

79 Myrtle Street

Chippendale NSW 2008

AUSTRALIA

tel +61 2 9311 8222

fax +61 2 9311 8200

www.architectsajc.com

ALLEN JACK+COTTIER
Architects Pty Ltd
ABN 53 003 782 250



Development application submitted for AJ+C designed landmark Stadium in Wollongong Sydney, 19 May 2010

Allen Jack+Cottier (AJ+C) has just submitted the development application for the replacement of the Western Grandstand at Wollongong's WIN stadium. As the southern home to the St George Illawarra Dragons the stadium aspires to become one of Australia's most advanced sporting grounds, giving the fans immediate and direct contact with the field.

WIN Stadium is located on the eastern side of Harbour Street between Burelli Street and Stewart Street. It is adjacent to the WIN Entertainment Centre (WEC) and within 150 metres of the surf at City Beach in Wollongong.

The Western Grandstand redevelopment will contain 6,000 seats, new corporate entertainment facilities, ticketing box offices and turnstiles, concession areas, toilets, player dug outs, as well as referee and media facilities compliant with the National Rugby League standards. The quality of the new facilities will change the experience of attending functions, games and events at WIN Stadium with the real winners of the new design being the fans.

"The new Grandstand will be seen as the proscenium arch between the north and south stadium, with a lightweight ephemeral roof seemingly floating from one end of the field to the other. The orientation also provides shade from the afternoon sun and glare," says AJ+C project architect John Gunnell.

This isn't the first time AJ+C have tackled the design of sporting facilities. Current and past AJ+C projects include the pit and spectator facilities at Mount Panorama, Bathurst; an Aquatic Centre in the Blue Mountains, and a range of sports and recreation halls for the NSW Department of Sports and Recreation, one of which (Berry Sports Hall) won best sports building in the World Architecture Festival, 2009.

"AJ+C are applying a high level of attention to detail for it to work perfectly, and to become a poetic addition to this beautiful site, much like we did with Berry Sports Hall," said AJ+C Principal, Michael Heenan.

"It has been a great collaboration with the Stuart Barnes, Peter Lanyon and the Board of the Illawarra Venues Authority," he added.

For further information, please contact:

Kristina Andersson - Communications

email: kristina.andersson@architectsajc.com

tel: +61 2 9311 8258

fax: +61 2 9311 8200

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