

27 May 2020

**Proposed name for new stadium**

Wurdi Baierr Stadium is the proposed name for the Surf Coast Multi-Purpose Indoor Stadium, which is currently under construction in the north of Torquay.

Endorsed by Surf Coast Shire Council at its May meeting, the proposed Wadawurrung name means ‘big gathering place’. The stadium will be formed by adding three courts to the existing single-court stadium at Surf Coast Secondary College.

Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperation created a short-list of four stadium names which were considered by key people involved in the project, including school and Victorian Government representatives. Wurdi Baierr Stadium was the preferred name.

Councillor Martin Duke said the community and civic precinct where the stadium will be located features various facilities with indigenous names, such as Kurrambee Myaring Community Centre, Djila Tjarri Play and Skate Zone, Narrodya netball courts and Yuurrok soccer pitch. Wurdi Baierr is pronounced *word-ee by-eer.*

“Using Wadawurrung language pays respect to the original custodians of the land where the stadium is located,” Cr Duke said.

“Huge thanks to Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation, which explained that Wurdi Baierr meant a big place where people gathered together for ceremonies, meetings and other occasions, a multi-function place like this new facility will be.”

“We will now publicly advertise the proposed name and welcome any submissions.”

The $13.5 million stadium will be a place for all ages and abilities, consisting of four courts, a café, meeting rooms, change facilities, all abilities design features and additional car parking. It is expected to be completed before the end of 2020.

Construction continues to progress well, with all of the pre-cast concrete wall panels erected along with most of the steel framework. The roofing for all areas should be complete in early June, which will help the contractor work through winter.

Surf Coast Shire Council acknowledges the funding received from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund ($5 million) and the Victorian Government via the Better Indoor Stadiums Fund ($3 million).

**Not for publication:**

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