

Game on as work on sport fields kicks off

Football the big winner with three new grounds plus a stadium

NEW facilities for baseball, cricket and football are expected to be ready for play next year in Beaumont Hills. The new sports fields at Caddies and Strangers Creek will also have cycleways, with The Hills Shire Council working with Sydney Water in construction.

Football will be the biggest winner with three fields – including one to be used for cricket in the offseason – and a stadium.

All fields will have amenities with parking.

Football is set to boom in the area following the decision by Football NSW and the breakaway Sydney Hills FA to settle their differences and run one competition.

The official sod-turning ceremony last Wednesday was attended by Castle Hill state Liberal MP Ray Williams, The Hills Mayor Yvonne Keane and Sydney Water's property portfolio manager Grant May.

"The provision of land around Caddies and Strangers Creeks by Sydney Water to the council will allow construction of extra sporting facilities along with an extensive network of cycleways and footpaths," Mr Williams said.

"The project will also protect and improve bushland."

The council and Sydney Water have entered into a long-term lease for the site.

Cr Keane said the new playing fields would help fulfil a need for more active recreational facilities.

"It is wonderful that we can breathe life into this much-needed new facility, while also maintaining healthy water quality, flood mitigation and the ecological values of which the site was originally acquired for by Sydney Water," she said.

- Cricket and football fields, costing \$11.7 million, are being constructed at the Elara housing estate at Marsden Park. Stockland, which is developing the 178ha estate, has been working with Cricket NSW, Football NSW and Blacktown Council on the 5ha sports and all-abilities playground precinct.

Stockland's NSW residential communities general manager Gavin Tonnet said a green link of walking and bike paths will connect the playing fields with the rest of the community.



Top Sydney architect firm CHROFI won the design competition for the playing fields' pavilion, which will include a kiosk, two change rooms, toilets and storage areas.

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