



Media Release

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Stadium tender goes to local firm

The Hunter ISC Trust has awarded the contract for the fifth and final tender in the EnergyAustralia Stadium redevelopment to Hunter-based construction company, John Holland Pty Ltd.

The contract covers the remaining work on the Eastern Grandstand superstructure.

The new facility will include corporate and function areas and upper grandstand seating for around 5000 spectators. When completed, the Eastern Grandstand, including the soon-to-be-completed concourse seating will hold around 12,500 spectators.

John Holland expects to start work at the Stadium mid-April. Construction will continue throughout 2004 and is due for completion around February 2005.

In the meantime, work is continuing on the Eastern Concourse in preparation for the Newcastle Knights' first home game against the Sydney Roosters on Sunday, April 18.

Trust President Ted Atchison said he was confident that at least 5,500 seats would be available.

"The recent poor weather has not helped the program, but I am still happy with the progress to date," Mr Atchison said.

"The Trust has guaranteed that 5,500 seats will be available for the first Knights game and the April 23 Test between Australia and New Zealand, but we are still aiming to have around 7,500 finished."

In addition to the concourse seating, other work is taking place around the Stadium in readiness for April 18.

This includes:

- Installation of eight additional corporate boxes on the Northern and Southern Hills, with fit out currently taking place;
- Installation of two lighting towers on the eastern side of the ground, with poles to be put in place next week. Lights will be installed and tested early next month;
- An electronic scoreboard displaying the score and match clock will also be installed on the Northern Hill above the existing corporate boxes for the Knights first game.

Mr Atchison said the new scoreboard unit would be in addition to the mobile replay screen that will again be brought in on a game-by-game basis.

“A permanent replay screen will be in place on the Southern Hill for the start of the 2005 NRL season,” he said.

“In all, it is very exciting watching the project come together and the Project Group is confident that patrons will be highly impressed when we open the gates for the Knights’ much-anticipated first home game on April 18.”

For further information

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