

LA FIAMMA SPORTING CLUB (Inc.)

(Founded 1959)

Salvatore Sciuto Stadium
Eighth Street, Wonthella. WA 6530
P.O. Box 365, Geraldton. WA 6531
ABN: 57 592 785 033



City of Greater Geraldton

14/07/2026

Regarding: Restoration and upgrade of Lighting Infrastructure

Attention: Mark Adams

Introduction

Upgrades to the sports lighting infrastructure, including replacement of lighting towers and conversion from metal halide to LED luminaires, have been under consideration since 2021. This followed a 2018 structural assessment indicating the existing poles had an estimated remaining service life of approximately five years. Responsibility for the lighting infrastructure transferred to the City of Greater Geraldton in 2018 after previously being owned and maintained by La Fiamma Sporting Club since 1989.

In 2023, the lighting upgrade project was placed on hold after advice that the existing poles had a further 3–5 years of usable life. In March 2026, the Planning Officer (Jay Prow) advised that a recent inspection indicated the poles would last an additional two years. However, on Sunday 31 May 2026, approximately six weeks after this advice, the south-west positioned lighting pole collapsed onto the main field.

Fortunately, no injuries occurred. Given the oval's regular public use, including pedestrians and recreational users, this incident highlights the importance of urgent infrastructure review and risk mitigation.

The collapse has also had a significant impact on La Fiamma Sporting Club. As an amateur community club competing in the Perth Metropolitan competition, the club relies on compliant sports lighting to host all home fixtures at night. The loss of lighting has already resulted in financial impacts and places future revenue-generating events, including the club's annual pre-season tournament, at risk. Every delay in restoring the lighting further compounds these impacts and jeopardises the club's ability to remain financially viable and continue participating in the Football West Metropolitan Amateur competition.

Given that the condition of the lighting infrastructure has been under review for several years and a pole has now failed, the replacement of the remaining lighting infrastructure should be treated as a matter of urgency to ensure the ongoing viability of one of the City's long-standing community sporting clubs.

Background

La Fiamma Sporting Club has historically been responsible for installing and maintaining lighting at its allocated 2 grounds, including the main oval east of the clubrooms and the secondary "Little Athletics" oval to the west.

The central section of the upper oval was originally allocated to La Fiamma following the installation of cricket nets in the early 1990s, which reduced access to the second field area. At that time, La Fiamma installed lighting infrastructure, which remained in place until its removal by the City in 2018.

LA FIAMMA SPORTING CLUB INCORPORATED



Since the City of Greater Geraldton installed lighting at the Little Athletics oval, management of our secondary field has become increasingly constrained due to shared usage arrangements and competing sporting demands.

La Fiamma requests consideration for the reinstatement of the second field to its original eastern allocation relative to the main oval. This would improve field access management and align with the allocation of lighting and field principles applied to other sporting clubs within the City of Greater Geraldton precinct.

Attracting High-Profile Events

Maintaining 200 lux on the main field is critical to supporting regional sporting development and attracting higher-tier events.

Recent and historical examples include:

- MMA event requiring supplementary lighting for safe competition conditions held on our main field
- Little Athletics Country tournament where overflow events on the main field were unable to be held at night due to insufficient lighting standards
- Touch rugby finals, which experienced limitations in video quality due to inadequate illumination
- Football West endorsement indicating that 200 lux lighting meets minimum requirements for National Premier League exhibition matches

Lighting Proposal – Two-Field Strategy

La Fiamma proposes a staged lighting strategy to support dual-field usage:

1. Main Field – Premier Venue (200 lux)
 - Maintain 200 lux lighting to support competition-level events
 - Enable hosting of tournaments, exhibition matches, and community events
 - Ensure compliance with requirements for higher-level sporting fixtures
 - Midwest dedicated rectangular field to accommodate other codes events.
2. Secondary Field – Training Use (100 lux)
 - Install luminaires on the rear side of existing eastern poles
 - Support training activities and reduce demand on the upper oval
 - Allow flexible scheduling for multiple user groups
 - Provide interim lighting capacity pending full future upgrade
3. Future Stage – Full Lighting Upgrade for Secondary Field
 - Subject to due process and planning approval
 - Full conversion to match-standard lighting as demand and funding allow

Conclusion

La Fiamma Sporting Club competes in a Metropolitan competition and plays ALL their home fixtures at night hosting travelling teams since 1990.

Our club has long been one of the few local sporting clubs in the Mid-West that actively schedules competitive evening fixtures under lights, rather than limiting night-time use to training only. The request for a 200 lux is intended to ensure adequate visibility and maximise player safety during these matches.

A 200 lux installation also provides an important level of redundancy in the event of LED luminaire failures. Should one or more luminaires fail, the remaining lighting would still provide sufficient illumination for play to continue safely. In contrast, an installation designed to only achieve 100 lux would likely fall below the minimum safe lighting level if any luminaires failed, creating an unacceptable safety risk for players and potentially requiring the match to be abandoned.

This is particularly significant given that visiting teams travel up to 450 kilometres to compete.

Having a match abandoned due to inadequate lighting caused by luminaire failure would be highly disruptive, disappointing for all participants, and avoidable with a lighting system designed to the appropriate standard.

For more than 35 years, La Fiamma Sporting Club has made a substantial contribution to both community sport and the local economy. By representing Geraldton in metropolitan competition and hosting visiting teams throughout each season, the club generates measurable economic benefits through increased expenditure on accommodation, dining, fuel, retail, and other local services. These activities support local businesses, stimulate regional tourism, and reinforce Geraldton's reputation as a destination for regional sporting events.

Although a higher lighting standard involves an increased capital investment, the club estimates that the full 200 lux setting would only be required for approximately 12 fixtures each season. For the remainder of the year, lighting would generally operate at the lower 100 lux training level. Consequently, the operating hours at full output would be relatively limited and are unlikely to significantly reduce the service life of the LED luminaires.

Where 200 lux lighting is utilised, the associated electricity costs are paid by La Fiamma Sporting Club under the existing user-pays arrangement.

Additionally, the proposed lighting poles are approximately 20 metres in height, which is lower than comparable installations at other sporting venues. The reduced mounting height enables more efficient light distribution and may reduce the number of luminaires required to achieve the desired lighting levels.

The club also understands that the City maintains a lighting contingency fund to respond to lighting infrastructure failures. Given the recent pole collapse can clarification be provided on the criteria for accessing it?

La Fiamma Sporting Club respectfully requests that the City of Greater Geraldton:

- Re-instate the lighting to the main field to enable the pre-season night series.
- Retains and restores 200 lux lighting capability on the main playing field
- Endorses a staged lighting approach for the secondary field
- Considers long-term reinstatement of the second field allocation to improve precinct functionality
- Reviews infrastructure safety following the recent pole failure incident

This approach supports community safety, sporting development, and the long-term viability of the facility as a premier regional sporting venue. It is consistent with the treatment of the AFL/Cricket oval at the east end of Eighth Street, where similar infrastructure has been implemented to improve safety, security, and event management.

Sincerely,
Mark Gray
La Fiamma Sporting Club President
0407 080 587

