

HOW THE STADIUM CAPACITY IS CALCULATED

Green Guide

When establishing the total maximum capacity for a stadium, the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds, otherwise known globally as the Green Guide, must be adhered to.

The Green Guide is an internationally recognised document offering best practices for planning, designing, managing, and operating sports grounds and stadia. It provides guidance on calculating venue capacity based on principles such as safe access and circulation, appropriate viewing standards, wheelchair provision, crush barrier arrangements, seating area gradient, and level standing density.

The Green Guide was established following several stadium tragedies in the United Kingdom during the 1970s and 1980s and is continually updated and revised to reflect recommendations following consultations between statutory and regulatory authorities. Updates have included new guidance on matters including, but not limited to, disability access, risk management, counter terrorism, training and qualifications of stewards, as well as changes and updates on the advances in technology.

UTAS Stadium Application of the Green Guide

Prior to the application of the Green Guide at UTAS Stadium, the venue's capacity was listed as 19,500. However, this figure was an occupancy permit figure (see occupancy permit definition below) and not a capacity figure.

In 2024, Stadiums Tasmania, in conjunction with architects Populous and the City of Launceston, applied the Green Guide regulations to UTAS Stadium. This resulted in a reclassification of the venue's capacity to 15,615.

- Total seated: 13,106
- Total viewing positions: 14,871
- Estimated event and operational staff (5 percent assumed): 744
- Total Stadium Capacity: 15,615

UTAS Stadium Capacity Following Redevelopment Project

Stadiums Tasmania is currently delivering the \$130 million redevelopment of UTAS Stadium, jointly funded by the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

This redevelopment project includes the construction of a new Centre West Stand, additional seating in the Western Stand, and a redeveloped Eastern Stand. Specifically, it will deliver:

- New and improved spectator amenities, new home team change rooms and updated player and officials matchday facilities to Tier 2 AFL Venue Guidelines.
- Designs in accordance with best practice principles including the Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds (Green Guide), that maximise the health and safety of players, staff, and spectators at the venue.
- New and increased (general admission and premium) seating options and facilities.
- New corporate and hospitality suites, increasing the stadium's capacity to generate commercial revenue and allow events and functions to be held outside of game days, as well as introducing new media and broadcasting facilities.
- Several additional priority infrastructure upgrades, including sports lighting upgrades, replacing the existing perimeter ribbon board, and compliance and accessibility upgrades to further enhance and futureproof the stadium.
- Enhanced economic outcomes for Launceston and the region by increasing the stadium's capacity to host content and increase visitation to Tasmania.
- A more accessible and economically sustainable venue for the community.

The venue redevelopment will add 2,000 new seats, including over 50 new accessible seats, and improve spectator experiences with new seating options closer to the on-field action. Matchday capacity will increase from 15,600 to at least 17,600 (subject to final design).

Capacity vs Occupancy Permit

When a venue is established an occupancy permit must be granted for that venue.

An occupancy permit is based on toilet and exit provisions and not the availability of safe viewing positions at the stadium. That is, the occupancy permit figure is not the same as the venue's total maximum capacity figure.

It is assumed the occupancy permit figure includes not only viewing positions, but event and operational staff permitted at the venue during events. This means any staff working within the venue - including security, bar staff, venue staff, sports staff - must all be included within this figure.

The 2012 Occupancy Permit granted to UTAS Stadium notes a maximum total population of 19,500 persons. This figure has previously been used as the venue capacity, however this is not accurate.