

COMMUNITY UPDATE: BELGENNY RESERVE CAMDEN FALCONS CLUBHOUSE

An update for Falcons members, families, and volunteers 17 June 2025

Following the recent fire at Belgenny Reserve, Camden Council acknowledges the significant impact this incident has had on the Falcons club and the broader Camden community. The club plays an important role in bringing together families, volunteers and young people.

Council is committed to supporting the Falcons community through this challenging period. We are working closely with all stakeholders to navigate the current situation and provide ongoing support.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Therese Fedeli together with Councillors, have supported the Falcons community throughout the process, listening to the concerns of players, families and volunteers. Council remains focused on keeping the community informed, responding promptly, and ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of both the club and the broader community, now and into the future.

What's happening now?

Belgenny Reserve remains temporarily closed while a formal investigation is underway. The site cannot be reopened until this process is complete and it is confirmed that the facility is safe for use. However, we are using this time to plan for both immediate needs and long-term outcomes to ensure the best possible path forward for the Falcons community.

In the meantime, Camden Council in conjunction with Macarthur Football Association (MFA) has arranged temporary relocation arrangements to allow the season to continue with minimal disruption. We understand how important it is for players, families and supporters to remain connected to the game, and we are committed to ensuring the season can proceed while the investigation continues.

Council will continue to provide updates to the Falcons Football Club President as more information becomes available and we thank the Falcons community for its patience, understanding and resilience during this difficult time.

What's next?

Now: Investigation and assessment

A formal investigation into the incident is currently underway. During this time, Belgenny Reserve will remain closed while Council works with the relevant authorities to assess the extent of the damage, ensure the site is safe, and progress the necessary insurance process.

Short term: Make the space safe and reopen

Once the investigation is complete, Council will undertake works to remove damaged materials and make the site safe for use. This is expected to take approximately five to six weeks, subject to the completion of investigations, safety assessments and any required remediation works.

Our goal is to return the Falcons community to Belgenny Reserve playing fields and ground floor amenity building as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

Longer term: Rebuild and future planning

Following the completion of the investigation and insurance assessments, Council will consider options for restoring, rebuilding and enhancing the facility for the future.

Any decisions regarding the long-term future of the clubhouse will be considered through Council's formal planning and decision-making processes including consultation with Camden Falcons.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What areas were affected by the fire?

The fire caused significant damage to the upper level of the clubhouse. Initial assessments indicate that the ground floor, including the changerooms, amenities, storeroom, garage and barbeque breezeway area, did not sustain direct fire damage. However, some water damage has been identified within parts of the canteen and storage areas.

A detailed assessment is currently underway, and further information will be provided once investigations are complete.

Why is Belgenny Reserve still closed?

To ensure the safety of players, volunteers and visitors, the reserve remains closed while investigations and site assessments are undertaken, and initial repair works to the ground floor amenity building are progressed.

Following the incident, essential services, including power and water were disconnected as a safety precaution and the sports field lighting is also currently offline.

When will we be able to return to Belgenny Reserve?

Council's current objective is to make the site safe and reopen Belgenny Reserve within approximately five to six weeks. This timeframe is subject to the completion of investigations, safety assessments and any required remediation works.

Will Council fund the rebuild?

Once investigations and insurance assessments have been finalised, Council will assess available options for rebuilding the clubhouse, including funding requirements and delivery options.

We will continue to consult with key stakeholders, including Camden Falcons.

I'd like to help with the rebuild. How can I get involved?

At this stage, the most valuable way for the community to show support is by being kind, patient and respectful as the Falcons, its players, volunteers and families navigate this challenging period.

Any repair, restoration or rebuilding works including the supply and installation of materials at Belgenny Reserve, will be coordinated by Council and delivered in accordance with Council's procurement, project delivery and construction requirements.

For this reason, offers to donate or supply materials or other in-kind contributions for the rebuilding of the site cannot be accepted. This ensures all works are delivered safely, meet required standards, and comply with Council's regulatory and procurement obligations.

How will updates be shared?

Council is committed to keeping the Falcons community informed and will provide regular updates through the Club and Council's website, as key milestones are reached and new information becomes available.