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WORK BEGINS ON \$3 MILLION STATE MOUNTAIN BIKE COURSE

Construction of the \$3 million State Mountain Bike Course at Lysterfield Park has begun in preparation for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, announced the start of works on the 6.3 kilometre competition track to be used by elite riders from across the globe.

“Lysterfield Park will take a place in the international spotlight when some of world’s best mountain bikers strive for gold at the Commonwealth Games,” Mr Madden said.

“With the course set to become one of the best in the world, Lysterfield Park will be well placed to host State, national and international competitions long after the Games and offer recreational riders of all abilities a taste of big time mountain biking.”

Parks Victoria, manager of Lysterfield Park, will oversee construction and manage the course beyond the Games. The course has been designed by one of the world’s leading mountain bike course designers and former athlete and technical official, Australian Ben Monroe.

Features of the State Mountain Bike Course include:

- 10 kilometres of new mountain bike trails, including a new 6.3 km elite competition course, creating a total on-site mountain bike trail network of almost 20 kilometres;
- a signage system to safely accommodate walkers and recreational cyclists;
- an Environmental Management Plan to protect areas of high-value vegetation; and
- staging areas and services for event support and logistics.

The 6.3 kilometre competition course represents an \$850,000 component of the total \$3 million upgrade. The competition course is due to be completed by mid 2005, with other upgrades to recreational trails due for completion by late 2005.

Two local companies have been awarded the contract to build the competition course – Lysterfield Landscapes and R&C Asphalt Paving.

Member for Narre Warren North, Luke Donnellan said this was a great example of how the Commonwealth Games is generating dividends for Victorian business.

“Not only will the \$3 million upgrade of Lysterfield Park serve the local community beyond 2006, businesses are reaping the economic rewards of Melbourne hosting this major event,” Mr Donnellan said.

“It is fantastic to see two local companies build a track that will be on the world stage in 2006.”

The XVIII Commonwealth Games will be held from 15 – 26 March 2006 and will bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations.