



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Premier of Victoria and the Minister for the Commonwealth Games

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PREMIER OPENS COMMONWEALTH GAMES SWIMMING POOL

The Premier, Steve Bracks, today officially opened the new competition pool built for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC).

The world-class pool in Albert Park has a permanent roof, a 3,000 seat grandstand and amenities to stage major swimming meets such as the Commonwealth Games and the world championships.

“This is a world-class pool worthy of hosting the world’s greatest swimmers.” Mr Bracks said.

“In March next year, the atmosphere here will be electric when the likes of Ian Thorpe, Jodie Henry, Michael Klim, Giaan Rooney and Brooke Hanson take on the world’s best.”

“Every swimming session is sold out and we’re hoping for Aussie gold rush in the new pool.”

The new pool at MSAC is one of several major infrastructure projects being built in preparation for the Games.

“All our construction projects are in the home straight,” Mr Bracks said.

“Last week the last seats went in at the MCG and the ground is ready for the Boxing Day Test.”

“The William Barak Bridge will open this Friday and furniture has started to go in to the Athletes’ Village in preparation for the almost 6,000 athletes and officials who will stay there.”

“Melbourne is ready for the Games and there is a palpable sense of excitement building across Victoria in anticipation of this great event.”

The Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, said overlay work to ready the pool for the Commonwealth Games competition would continue in collaboration with the State Sport Centres Trust and Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

“MSAC will host more than 20% of all Commonwealth Games competition with the swimming, diving, synchronised swimming, table tennis and squash all taking place in this great complex,” Mr Madden said.

“Now that the pool is complete, we can all work together to apply the finishing touches.”

The Premier was joined at the opening by Brooke Hanson who was the first to swim in the pool. She was joined by competition winners from across Australia who won the opportunity to join her in the first swim in the pool.

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