



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation

Sunday 1 August, 2004

CLEAN SWEEP OF THE YARRA IN TIME FOR 2006 GAMES

A state-of-the-art river barge will patrol the Yarra River to keep the iconic waterway clean in the lead-up to the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Putting the barge into service today, the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, said it was one of several environmental initiatives triggered by the event.

“By hosting the Games, the State Government is working to create win-win scenarios for Victoria’s economy, community and natural environment,” Mr Madden said.

“For the environment, the Games are a chance to showcase the approaches we need to take in the long term towards litter, water and greenhouse gas emissions.

“This barge will patrol the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, emptying the 14 litter traps along both.

“Operated by Parks Victoria, it will remove up to 2,000m³ of rubbish every year – roughly enough to fill two 50 metre swimming pools between now and the Games.”

The new barge was built by a Melbourne-based company in Brooklyn at a cost of \$412,000. Its construction generated work for 10 apprentices, adding to the opportunities for Victoria’s workforce through the Games.

Mr Madden said the barge would also be used to assist with fireworks at major events, and potentially for Games festivities.

“The Yarra is a Melbourne icon that will be at the centre of celebrations for the Commonwealth Games, so making sure it looks good under the international spotlight is vital,” he said.

“But just as importantly, the barge will continue to clean the Yarra long after 2006 – adding to the legacy of hosting the Games.”

Using the barge as inspiration, Mr Madden encouraged local communities to consider hosting ‘clean up’ days of their own in the lead-up to March 2006.

Other environmental initiatives underway as part of Games preparations include a State-wide litter campaign, a tree planting program to offset greenhouse gas emissions and water saving devices at all major venues.

The Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games run from 15 – 26 March 2006, and will bring together 4,500 athletes from 71 nations. For more information on the Commonwealth Games Environment Program visit www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games

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