



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation

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Friday 9 May, 2003

## **2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES TO BE WORLD-FIRST CARBON NEUTRAL MULTI-SPORTS EVENT**

Melbourne's 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games will be the first major multi-sports event in the world to be carbon-neutral, the Bracks Government announced today.

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, launched the Environment Strategy for the Games, which includes a commitment to plant 2.5 million trees over the next three years.

Mr Madden made the announcement at a tree planting ceremony today, made in conjunction with Landcare Australia.

"This initiative is part of our commitment to deliver an event that is carbon neutral, waterwise and low waste," Mr Madden said.

"The Bracks Government believes the Kyoto Protocol provides a responsible framework for international action on climate change and should be ratified as soon as possible.

"That is why we are implementing a Strategy that is carbon neutral as the underpinning of our delivery of the 2006 Commonwealth Games."

Mr Madden said the commitment would be achieved by minimising harmful emissions and offsetting any emissions with carbon reduction activities.

"Our commitment to plant 2.5 million trees in areas affected by salinity and environmental degradation will help to achieve a carbon neutral Games," he said.

"This means that any marginal greenhouse gas emissions caused by the Games will be offset, ensuring the Games won't produce more emissions than would be produced normally.

"We will also implement several other strategies to minimise emissions, including measures to increase public transport usage during the Games and by using renewable energy at some Games venues."

Other key measures include:

- Minimising waste generation and maximising diversion of wastes from landfill;
- Implementing comprehensive public place and litter management systems;
- Recycle 95 per cent of construction and demolition waste from the major Games infrastructure projects;
- Minimising use of potable water and maximising recycling of stormwater and wastewater at venues;

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- Wastewater and greywater recycling, stormwater recycling and water efficient appliances at infrastructure developments;
- Games Village will incorporate rainwater, stormwater and greywater harvesting and recycling for toilet flushing and irrigation.

These activities will be delivered in partnerships with Government, community organisations, environmental bodies and local Landcare groups.

“We are announcing a strategy today that will demonstrate a fundamental change in environmental practices can be achieved as part of the ordinary activities of people engaged in staging a major event,” Mr Madden said

Copies of the Strategy are available at [www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth\\_games.htm](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/commonwealth_games.htm)