



The Place To Be

# Media release

From the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation

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## **BALLARAT IN TOP CONTENTION TO HOST COMMONWEALTH GAMES BASKETBALL**

A funding injection from the Bracks Government has put WIN Minerdome in strong contention to host preliminary rounds of the basketball competition for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

That was the encouraging news delivered in person to Ballarat sports fans at the upgraded stadium tonight by the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Sport and Recreation, Justin Madden.

“The tremendous drive shown by the Ballarat Basketball Association and City of Ballarat looks set to be rewarded shortly,” Mr Madden said.

“The Bracks Government’s \$500,000 contribution to the stage two redevelopment has helped to transform this stadium into a world class facility.”

Basketball fans attending tonight’s first home game for the Ballarat Miners in the 2004 South East Australian Basketball League season against arch-rivals Bendigo Braves are among the first to enjoy the benefits of the recently-completed upgrade.

“Spectators will appreciate the new retractable grandstand with its comfortable seating and will notice the much-improved sound system,” Mr Madden said.

“Basketball facilities also have been modified to cater for more top-level games while the overall venue has been made more appealing for a range of other regional events catering for up to 2000 people.”

Mr Madden said the Bracks Government was proving its strong commitment to provide a better future for all Victorian families by encouraging more people to take part in sport and recreation.

“Our government has significantly increased the number and standard of sport and recreation facilities across regional areas and we will continue to create opportunities for all sections of the community at the grassroots level,” he said.