

Wednesday 17 November 2004

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES VENUES CONFIRMED

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, today confirmed the list of venues to host the 2006 Commonwealth Games events.

With less than 500 days to the opening ceremony, Mr Madden said communities across the State would share in the benefits of staging the biggest event in Victoria's history.

"In 2006, all eyes will be on our pools, stadiums and pitches as some of the world's best athletes come to one of the world's most liveable cities," Mr Madden said.

"The 42 kilometre marathon will start and finish at Australia's greatest stadium – the MCG – and will take place along some of the best boulevards we have to offer.

"The Royal Botanic Gardens will host the cycling road race, and St Kilda's foreshore will stage the Triathlon. One of the newest parts of the city, the Docklands, will be the backdrop for walking events."

Mr Madden said work on all Commonwealth Games venues would be completed on schedule. Key infrastructure projects triggered by the Games include:

- the \$430 million revamp of the MCG, including new grandstands and better spectator facilities;
- an open-air, permanently roofed 50 metre competition pool added to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, the foundations of which have already been poured;
- two new pitches for the State Netball Hockey Centre in Parkville, to be completed by March 2005;
- creation of the State Mountain Bike Course in Lysterfield, construction of which will start in January;
- four new outdoor greens, and one all-weather indoor surface, at the State Lawn Bowls Centre in Northcote, which are already nearing completion and
- the 525 metre Yarra Pedestrian Bridge, stretching from Birrarung Marr to the MCG, which is now under construction.

As part of the commitment to help all Victorians make the most of the Games, Mr Madden said several regional venues would also host events.

"Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Traralgon are all slated to host preliminary rounds of the basketball. Bendigo will also host the full bore shooting at Wellsford Rifle Range," Mr Madden said.

"For all of these communities, the Games are a chance to improve facilities, boost tourism and write a new chapter in their local history."

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

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## MELBOURNE 2006 COMMONWEALTH GAMES VENUES

Sport	Venue
Aquatics - Diving - Swimming - Synchronised Swimming	Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre
Athletics – Track and Field	Melbourne Cricket Ground
Athletics – Marathon	Start and finish at the Melbourne Cricket Ground
Athletics – Walks	Docklands Precinct
Badminton	Melbourne Exhibition Centre
Basketball – Finals	Melbourne Park
Basketball – Preliminary matches	Ballarat Minerdome, Bendigo Stadium, Geelong Arena and Traralgon Sports Stadium (TBC).
Boxing	Melbourne Exhibition Centre
Cycling – Track	Melbourne Park
Cycling – Road Race	Royal Botanic Gardens Circuit
Cycling – Mountain Bike	State Mountain Bike Course (Lysterfield Park)
Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic)	Rod Laver Arena
Hockey	State Netball Hockey Centre
Lawn Bowls	State Lawn Bowls Centre
Netball – Preliminaries	State Netball Hockey Centre
Netball – Finals	Melbourne Park
Rugby 7s	Telstra Dome
Shooting – Full Bore	Wellsford Rifle Range (Bendigo)
Shooting – Clay Target	Melbourne Gun Club (Lilydale)
Shooting – Pistol and Small Bore	Melbourne International Shooting Club
Squash	Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre
Table Tennis	Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre
Triathlon	St Kilda Foreshore
Weightlifting	Melbourne Exhibition Centre