

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES, MINISTER FOR SPORT & RECREATION

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MORE OF VICTORIA TO SHARE IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Port Melbourne, Lilydale and Bendigo will each host part of the Commonwealth Games shooting program in 2006, the Minister for Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, announced today.

Mr Madden said Melbourne International Shooting Club in Port Melbourne and Melbourne Gun Club in Lilydale would join Bendigo as official shooting venues placed in the international spotlight during the Games.

"The 2006 Commonwealth Games will be the biggest event Victoria has ever hosted, and we are working to make sure the opportunities that come with it are shared across the State," he said.

"Hosting parts of the sports program outside central Melbourne not only spreads the excitement, but it also spreads the commercial potential and the chances to create local history.

"The State Government is investing \$2.5 million in better infrastructure across three locations to create world-class venues for a sport that Australia regularly excels in."

The venue upgrades and Commonwealth Games shooting events are:

- **Melbourne International Shooting Club, Port Melbourne** – will host the pistol and small bore shooting following a refurbishment that includes new target systems and firing bays.

- **Melbourne Gun Club, Lilydale** – will host clay target shooting following an investment in new 'traps' to launch the targets.
- **Wellsford Rifle Range, Bendigo** – will host the full bore shooting following a major redevelopment that included new target systems, firing mounds and extension of the shooting range.

"As an example of how State and Local governments are working together to deliver the Games, the Shire of Yarra Ranges plans to seal the road that leads to the Melbourne Gun Club in Lilydale," Mr Madden said.

"Together with the sporting infrastructure we're creating, this project demonstrates the legacies that the Games will leave individual communities."

The shooting program is expected to be contested by over 300 elite athletes from more than 35 nations, and will take place over 11 days of competition.

Other Commonwealth Games sporting events planned for outside metropolitan Melbourne include preliminary rounds of basketball in Geelong, Traralgon, Ballarat and Bendigo, and mountain biking in Lysterfield.

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