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Work set to begin on Melbourne Park redevelopment

Bovis Lend Lease has been appointed managing contractor of early works on the \$363 million first stage of the Brumby Labor Government's Melbourne Park redevelopment, Major Projects Minister Tim Pallas announced today.

Mr Pallas said Bovis Lend Lease had signed on to deliver the 2010 works package as part of the first stage of the landmark redevelopment, that will guarantee the Australian Open remains in Melbourne till at least 2036.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to invest in projects such as the Melbourne Park redevelopment that generate thousands of jobs, stimulate the local economy and in this case, secure Grand-Slam tennis for Victoria," Mr Pallas said.

"Melbourne is internationally renowned for its sporting and entertainment facilities, and like the nearby AAMI Park, this project will take us to a whole new level for players and spectators alike.

"The \$20 million 2010 works package includes the installation of a 4.5 mega litre water tank under the oval beside Rod Laver Arena, an extension of the arena's western concourse, taxi rank improvements on Olympic Boulevard and landscaping works along Batman Avenue.

"The water tank is a particularly exciting development that forms part of a precinct-wide water management system that will ensure the sustainability of Melbourne Park for decades to come."

Mr Pallas said with a budget of \$363 million, Stage One of the Melbourne Park redevelopment would deliver more than 600 construction jobs on and off site and approximately \$1 billion in flow-on economic benefit to the building industry.

"This is going to be an exciting and complex project, with work to be staged in such a way that the Australian Open can continue to function successfully for the duration of the project. We expect to finish Stage One in 2015," he said.

Bovis Lend Lease General Manager Geoff Moore said the company had a great history in the Melbourne Park precinct.

"Bovis Lend Lease is pleased to return to Melbourne Park, having delivered the Rod Laver Arena in the late 1980s, and to be a part of ensuring that the precinct continues to be one of the world's premier sporting venues," Mr Moore said.

In addition to the 2010 works package, Stage One of the project includes:

- a major upgrade to fully enclose Margaret Court Arena, including the installation of a retractable roof and additional seating to increase crowd capacity to 7,500
- a new Eastern Plaza, incorporating eight new indoor courts and 13 outdoor courts for elite training and general public use as well as change room facilities and a gymnasium
- refurbishments to Rod Laver Arena and Hisense Arena
- additional parking and a footbridge linking Melbourne Park to AAMI Park.