



# Media release

**The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP**

Minister for Ports  
Minister for Regional Cities  
Minister for Racing  
Minister for Major Projects

**The Hon Hugh Delahunty MP**

Minister for Sport and Recreation  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Tuesday 25 January 2011

## Melbourne Park's new Eastern Plaza unveiled at Australian Open

Minister for Sport and Recreation Hugh Delahunty and Minister for Major Projects Denis Napthine have unveiled the design for Victoria's latest major sporting facility, the Eastern Plaza tennis centre at Melbourne Park.

Mr Delahunty said that Eastern Plaza was another significant step in the process of securing the long term future of Melbourne as Australia's home of Grand Slam tennis.

"The Eastern Plaza is a vital part of the Government's multi-million dollar upgrade of the Melbourne Park sporting precinct, and its fresh, light and functional design really sets the scene for the entire redevelopment," Mr Delahunty said.

"The Victorian Government's commitment to the upgrade of Melbourne Park not only secures the future of Melbourne as the home of the Australian Open, but also gives Victorians access to world-class tennis facilities."

Dr Napthine said the Eastern Plaza will incorporate key features including a sporting campus with indoor and outdoor tennis training facilities and a new piazza-style public space for fans and visitors.

"Eastern Plaza will provide world-class training facilities for tennis stars, as well as providing a venue for Tennis Australia's young player development programs. Members of the public will be able to hire courts and enjoy this latest addition to our world-beating sports precinct," Dr Napthine said.

Minister Napthine said construction firm Watpac would build Eastern Plaza with a consultant team including Daryl Jackson Architecture, Winward Structures and WSP Lincolne Scott.

"Watpac and their team including architect Daryl Jackson have done a fantastic job in designing this vital element of the Melbourne Park precinct that is set to benefit both Australian tennis and community users. We are delighted to be working with such high calibre professionals on this significant project," Dr Napthine said.

The Eastern Plaza is the second component of the \$363 million dollar first stage of the Melbourne Park redevelopment project.

The Eastern Plaza will incorporate:

- eight new indoor tennis courts and 13 new outdoor courts;
- warm up and warm down facilities for athletes;
- an elevated plaza providing new public space and a new eastern entry to Hisense Arena;
- multilevel parking for up to 1000 cars and 30 buses;
- an upgraded western entry to Hisense Arena; and
- a pedestrian bridge over Olympic Boulevard completing a direct pedestrian link between the MCG, Melbourne Park and AAMI Park.

Major Projects Victoria (MPV) will continue to work with the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust and Tennis Australia to manage the redevelopment.

Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust Chairman Russell Caplan said Melbourne Park's venues and setting were internationally renowned and the redevelopment of Melbourne Park would ensure it remained the world's leading sports and entertainment precinct.

"The next stage will not only expand on the superb existing sporting facilities, it will greatly improve the amenities and enhance the experience for the millions of visitors to our venues each year," Mr Caplan said.

Tennis Australia's Chief Executive Officer Steve Wood said he appreciated the ongoing support from the Victorian Government.

"The Melbourne Park redevelopment will provide a major boost for the tournament and the continual growth of tennis in Australia," Mr Wood said.

"With the new world-class training facilities we can grow our junior development programs throughout the year and also provide the best facilities for all the stars in January.

"We look forward to working closely with the Victorian Government and Melbourne and Olympic Parks over the coming years and securing the future of the Australian Open in Melbourne," Mr Wood said.

The Eastern Plaza works are expected to commence in early 2011. Stage one of the Melbourne Park redevelopment is expected to be completed in time for the 2015 Australian Open.

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