

**Tuesday 27 July 2010**

## **Shortlist for Melbourne Park Eastern Plaza Works**

Three companies have been invited to submit tenders for the \$125 million design and construct contract for the Eastern Plaza project as part of the Brumby Labor Government's \$363 million Melbourne Park redevelopment

Major Projects Minister Tim Pallas announced today that construction companies Grocon, Bovis Lend Lease and Watpac had been shortlisted from the field of nine who responded to the initial request for Expressions of Interest.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to invest in projects such as the Melbourne Park redevelopment that generate jobs and strengthen the local economy," Mr Pallas said.

"The response from the industry reflects the high level of interest in this major redevelopment that will secure the future of the Australian Open in Melbourne until at least 2036 and improve the city's world-renowned sporting and entertainment facilities.

"This will be a challenging and complex project with construction taking place while Melbourne's premier events precinct is in full operation. Once complete the new Eastern Plaza will allow facilities to be moved from the western side of the park to make way for subsequent stages."

The Eastern Plaza is one of three parts to Stage 1 of the Melbourne Park project and includes:

- 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;
- A new landscaped entrance to Melbourne Park on Olympic Boulevard;
- 1,000 car spaces and up to 30 bus parks over two levels;
- 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.

Stage 1 of the Melbourne Park redevelopment will deliver more than 600 construction jobs on and off site and around \$1 billion in flow-on economic benefit to the building industry.

Sports Minister James Merlino said the first stage alone was the largest Government-funded sports facility project ever seen in Victoria, bigger than the 1956 Olympics and the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

"The Brumby Labor Government's ongoing investment in improving and updating Melbourne's unbeatable network of sporting infrastructure is a key factor in our reputation as the sporting events capital of the world," Mr Merlino said.

"The subsequent stages to be built over the next 15 years will totally revitalise Melbourne Park as an event venue with significant improvements to pedestrian connectivity and amenity."

The Eastern Plaza will be built in the area of Melbourne Park between Hisense Arena and Punt Road. Stage One is expected to be finished in 2015.