

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – COVID-19
Minister for Industry Support and Recovery
Minister for Trade
Minister for Business Precincts
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Racing



Sunday, 30 August 2020

MATILDAS WALTZING TOWARDS NEW HOME IN MELBOURNE

The Matildas have their eyes set on home-country World Cup glory in 2023 – and a vision will soon start to form for a new permanent home for the national women’s soccer team in Melbourne’s north.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today announced an investment of \$1.5 million to start planning for the Home for the Matildas and a State Rugby Union Centre to be created at La Trobe University’s Bundoora Sports Park.

The facility would be the Victorian base for Football Federation Australia’s national women’s programs – led by the world number seven ranked, Sam Kerr-captained Matildas – and the training, high-performance and administration centre for Football Victoria.

The planning work will be conducted in partnership with Rugby Victoria with designs to include training and administration space for programs including the Melbourne Rebels’ Super W team.

The Commonwealth Government has committed \$15 million towards the construction of the Home of the Matildas in Victoria.

La Trobe University has invested more than \$80 million to develop the first two stages of its Sports Park Master Plan which includes a six-court indoor stadium, research laboratories and facilities for soccer, football, cricket and baseball. The Banyule City Council has contributed \$5 million towards the cost of the works.

The 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup will be played across Australia and New Zealand with Melbourne’s AAMI Park to host five games including a quarter-final. The ninth FIFA Women’s World Cup will be the largest ever with 32 teams engaged to play 64 games over a five-week period in July/August.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

“The Matildas have captured Australia’s imagination with magnificent performances across the globe and it’s fantastic that soccer has identified Melbourne as the best place to build a permanent home for the team.”

“We’ll get to work on planning a soccer and rugby union centre of excellence that will provide A-grade facilities for stars of all ages.”

Quote attributable to La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor Professor John Dewar

“The La Trobe Sports Park is already a world-class facility – having the Matildas, Football Victoria and Rugby Victoria based on campus would deliver significant benefits for our students and the community in Melbourne’s north.”

Quote attributable to Matildas captain Sam Kerr

“This is amazing news for the Matildas – the prospect of having a state-of-the-art facility specifically designed for our use is very exciting. We love playing in Melbourne and we really look forward to having a dedicated base where we can train and prepare for matches.”

Quote attributable to Melbourne Rebels chair Paul Docherty

“The creation of the Victorian Rugby Centre of Excellence at La Trobe University would underpin the continuing growth of our sport in Victoria and maximise its benefit to the community and participants for decades to come.”

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