

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Community Sport
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WARRNAMBOOL WINS AS MAJOR OVAL REDEVELOPMENT BEGINS

The Great South Coast region is a step closer to hosting pre-season AFL, AFLW, BBL and WBBL games with works starting today on a major \$10.2 million transformation of Warrnambool's home of sport – Reid Oval.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence, Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney and Warrnambool City Council mayor Cr Tony Herbert today announced work had started on the project, which has been made possible by an allocation of \$10 million from the Victorian Government, including \$3 million from the Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme.

Works includes redevelopment of the oval, new goal posts, 200 lux lighting, player and umpire amenity upgrades, improved spectator amenities including social areas, cricket training facilities, and the establishment of state and regional sporting association offices.

Once complete, the transformed venue will provide a perfect base to host local and regional competitions, training and development programs.

The works will also take the venue to pre-season AFL, AFLW, BBL and WBBL day-game standard, which is appropriate for a regional centre boasting a population of more than 35,000 and a proud sporting heritage.

The Reid Oval project will generate 73 jobs over two years and create an estimated \$10.4 million in annual economic value to the Warrnambool community.

Reid Oval is home to the Warrnambool Football Netball Club, East Warrnambool Football Netball Club, Nestles Cricket Club, Warrnambool and District Football Umpires Association, Warrnambool District Cricket Association, Hampden Football Netball League and the Warrnambool and District Football Netball League.

The oval's outdated facilities have been struggling to cope with local and regional demand, especially with growing numbers signing up to play female football and cricket.

Ms Spence and Ms Tierney acknowledged the leadership and commitment of Warrnambool City Council in developing top class facilities at Reid Oval, and Cricket Victoria for its financial contribution.

Quote attributed to Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence

"People in Warrnambool are passionate about their sport and this project will open up opportunities for the growing numbers of football, netball and cricket players in the region to emulate their heroes."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"This upgrade will mean Warrnambool is able to attract even more top-level competitions – boosting our economy, providing jobs and giving locals the chance to see their heroes in action."