

# Media Release

**The Hon Martin Pakula MP**

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Friday, 20 November 2020

## COMMUNITY FRONT AND CENTRE IN MARVEL STADIUM REVAMP

Marvel Stadium will be opened up to the city and transformed into a seven-day-a-week community meeting place with a “Town Square” and new cafes, bars and restaurants under striking designs released today.

The signature new Town Square plaza will welcome pedestrians arriving on the Bourke Street footbridge from Southern Cross Station – a combination of indoor and outdoor spaces with some stadium walls removed to provide a visual connection to the field of play.

Markets and community gatherings will fit naturally in the space while hospitality businesses on two levels will be open to the public and able to be converted to ticketed areas for AFL matches and concerts.

Overlooking Wurundjeri Way, a “City Edge” stadium extension will refurbish public and function areas and provide views back into Melbourne’s CBD.

More bicycle parking, a stadium sensory room, changing places facility and improved lighting all feature in the vision set out by architects *Grimshaw with Smartform*, with the project to go to construction tender next week.

The Andrews Labor Government invested \$225 million to fund the project as part of a landmark agreement with the AFL and the Melbourne Cricket Club in 2018 that secured Victoria as the home of football.

The arrangement guarantees that the AFL Grand Final will be played at the MCG until at least 2058 and includes a partnership with the AFL to develop multicultural, indigenous and women’s football. The agreement also secures top-level footy in regional Victoria, including AFL games in Geelong and Ballarat.

Inside the stadium, fans in the stands will enjoy renovated food and beverage areas while new video display boards and other technology upgrades will further enhance the stadium experience. Competitors will be supported with upgrades to male and female change rooms.

The revitalisation of Marvel Stadium will create hundreds of local jobs during construction – the Labor Government’s Local Jobs First policy commits government-funded projects to use locally-based suppliers, ensuring that economic stimulus is maximised.

A town planning permit application is due to be lodged with the City of Melbourne shortly. Pending approvals, construction could start in the middle of 2021. Project design images are available at [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).

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

*“This project will turn Marvel Stadium into a true community asset – a fantastic place to watch the footy or catch a big act but also a place to gather and enjoy being part of Melbourne.”*

*“It’s a win for sports fans, for people who will come to the precinct to meet family and friends and for the hundreds of workers who will draw a wage working on another major stimulus project for Victoria.”*

### Quotes attributable to AFL chief executive Gillon McLachlan

*“By renovating the existing Marvel Stadium structure, it will provide a more environmentally sustainable way of building as well as ensuring minimal disruption to fans.”*

*“On behalf of the AFL I want to thank the Victorian Government for their continued partnership across both elite and community football.”*

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