

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



Thursday, 10 December 2020

BOXING DAY TEST CROWD CONFIRMED AT 30,000

A crowd of 30,000 per day has been approved for the Boxing Day Test between Australia and India at the MCG in a decision based on the latest public health advice.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today confirmed the figure after a COVIDSafe Event Plan submitted by the Melbourne Cricket Club and Cricket Australia was endorsed by the Chief Health Officer under the Victorian Government's Public Events Framework.

The approved attendance is higher than the 25,000 per day forecast in late October and is possible due to improved public health conditions.

The Melbourne Cricket Club and Cricket Australia will now take carriage of the COVIDSafe Event Plan for the Test, ensuring the health and safety of players, spectators and the wider community.

Australia will play India in a four-match Test series, with Melbourne hosting the second of four Test matches. Tickets have gone on sale today.

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

"Melbourne is the home of Australia's biggest and most-loved sporting events and it's fantastic that we will be able to welcome 30,000 fans to the MCG on each day of the Boxing Day Test."

"It's testament to the hard work of all Victorians in fighting the virus that Cricket Australia and the MCC have been able to put together a plan that allows for more supporters than had been originally planned."

Quotes attributable to Cricket Australian chief executive Nick Hockley

"We can't wait to see 30,000 fans each day at the MCG for the Boxing Day Test."

"It will be the first time fans have been able to attend a sporting event at the MCG since the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final, and we're excited to be able to welcome so many fans."

Quote attributable to Melbourne Cricket Club chief executive Stuart Fox

"We're pleased to work with the Victorian Government and Cricket Australia to maximise the attendance of members and fans at another iconic Boxing Day Test in just over two weeks."