

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



Monday, 6 December 2021

EXPANDED HANGAR DELIVERS WIN FOR WOMEN FOOTBALLERS

The Essendon Football Club's base at Tullamarine is now a winner for both genders with an expansion supported by the Andrews Labor Government accommodating the club's growing women's program.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today opened the new facility at the Hangar, which incorporates four unisex change rooms, a function centre and community education hub.

The high-performance centre is used as a training base by Essendon's VFLW team, and the expansion and upgrade of the facilities brings it up to standard for the Bombers to base their AFLW team there when it enters the competition for the 2022/23 season.

The community and education facilities will be used for a range of purposes, from training female umpires to encouraging women and girls at all levels, and from all backgrounds, to participate on and off the field.

The new facilities will also benefit Paralympics Australia, which is based at the Hangar, along with Western United Football Club which is using the centre as a training and administration base for the next two years.

The Labor Government's \$6.3 million investment is the latest in a series of initiatives to help level the playing field at the elite and community levels, including a \$20 million investment at Ikon Park that has enabled Carlton's AFLW team to enjoy the same standard of facilities as the club's men.

Other investments include \$13 million for major works at St Kilda's Moorabbin Oval, \$5 million to upgrade Melbourne's Casey Fields and \$2 million to remake the change rooms at Victoria Park, a home ground for Collingwood's AFLW team.

The Government has also announced \$15.5 million for Richmond's Punt Road Oval and \$7.3 million for North Melbourne's Arden Street.

Whitten Oval will be remade with a 1,500-capacity grandstand as part of a \$36.6 million investment by the Government to complete the transformation of the ground, which followed a \$5 million grant to create match-day and training facilities for the Western Bulldogs' AFLW team.

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

"Talk about equality and opportunity in sport must be backed by actions, and providing facilities like these sends a powerful message to the current crop of stars, and the girls who will follow in their footsteps."

"From the grassroots to VFLW and AFLW, women's footy is booming and we're making sure women and girls have the facilities they need to be their best."

Quote attributable to Member for Sunbury Josh Bull

"It's great that the community will benefit from these new facilities, providing a place for training and development and to encourage young people to get involved in sport."

Quote attributable to Essendon Football Club President Paul Brasher

"We're very grateful for the Victorian Government's support in expanding and upgrading our facilities at the Hangar – it's now a world-class training and administration centre and a fantastic community asset."

Media contact: Shaun Phillips 0407 553 763 | shaun.phillips@minstaff.vic.gov.au