

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment
Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Resources
Acting Minister for Industry Support and Recovery
Acting Minister for Trade
Acting Minister for Business Precincts

Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Acting Minister for Racing
Acting Minister for Regional Development
Acting Minister for Agriculture

Sunday, 26 December 2021

BOXING DAY TEST OPENS SUMMER OF MAJOR EVENTS

Tens of thousands of cricket fans will pour through the gates of MCG today, as Victorians celebrate the start of the Boxing Day Test.

Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Jaala Pulford welcomed fans to the MCG, with the big crowd expected to deliver a major boost to city restaurants, bars, cafes and hotels.

With Australia two-nil up in the *Ashes Test* series, a capacity crowd each day is permitted to see Australia take on England. Wearing a mask will be required when moving around the stadium – including when getting food or entering the venue – but fans do not have to wear one when they are in their seats outdoors.

The Boxing Day Test opens an action-packed summer calendar of sport, arts, and creative events set to attract hundreds of thousands of people to the city in coming months.

Grand Slam tennis returns to Melbourne Park from 17 January, and the Socceroos play their 2022 World Cup qualifier against Vietnam at AAMI Park on 27 January.

Melbourne's famed theatre district is humming, with productions including *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* and Disney's *Frozen* to continue over the summer months.

Fashion lovers can check out the *Gabrielle Chanel: Fashion Manifesto* exhibition, which made its stunning debut at the NGV earlier this month.

South Africa is locked in to take on Australia at the MCG for next year's Boxing Day Test.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Jaala Pulford

"There's no better place to watch the Aussies beat England than at the MCG on Boxing Day."

"Having MCG crowds at full capacity for the Boxing Day Test and our summer of major events will attract hundreds of thousands of people to Melbourne and deliver big benefits for so many local businesses."

Quote attributable to Melbourne Cricket Club chief executive Stuart Fox

"The MCG hosted the first ever Test match in 1877 and holds a special place in the heart of cricket fans – it's great to welcome England back at the Ashes and we look forward to delivering an exhilarating program of play."