

# Media Release

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



Thursday, 13 January 2022

## COVIDSAFE EVENT PLAN FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN UPDATED

The COVIDSafe Event Plan for the *2022 Australian Open* will be amended to ensure the health and safety of fans attending Melbourne Park from Monday.

Ticket sales will be paused at 50 per cent of capacity – where a session has not already sold to that level.

All tickets purchased to date remain valid, and no tickets will be cancelled or changed. There will be no changes to ground pass access

Face masks will be mandatory for all patrons, except when eating or drinking, and the event will align with Victoria's statewide COVIDSafe settings. This includes a density limit of one person per two square metres for all indoor hospitality.

Ventilation will be improved in indoor areas of Melbourne Park, with HEPA filters to be installed in some spaces after a ventilation assessment is completed for the venue.

As COVID-19 hospitalisations and cases continue to rise in Victoria, these mitigation strategies are proportionate and designed to assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

The Australian Open is a pillar of the state's major events calendar and delivers a major boost to Victorian businesses. The 2020 tournament attracted 812,714 spectators and injected \$387.7 million into state's economy.

The Andrews Labor Government has invested \$1 billion into the redevelopment of Melbourne Park, securing the Australian Open in Melbourne until at least 2044.

Ticket holders at the maiden Grand Slam of 2022 will enjoy not only the tennis action on court, but entertainment aplenty including a packed line-up of live music, food and wine from the biggest names in Melbourne's world-class restaurant scene and family friendly activities.

The Labor Government is also making sure tennis fans get fair-price tickets, with the *Major Events Act* making it illegal to sell, or advertise for sale, a ticket to a declared event for more than 10 per cent above the face value of the ticket.

The 2022 Australian Open commences on Monday, 17 January and wraps up with the Men's Final on 30 January.

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

*"These updates to arrangements for the Australian Open will mean that fans, players and the workforce can look forward to a terrific COVIDsafe event in Australia's event capital."*

*"Melbourne Park is the best place on the planet to watch the tennis and thousands of spectators will be able to experience the iconic Australian Open from Monday."*