

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



Wednesday, 23 February 2022

FOO FIGHTERS TO ROCK REGIONAL VICTORIA FOR ALWAYS LIVE

International rock supergroup, the Foo Fighters, will take to the stage in Geelong next month as part of a major statewide live music program being delivered by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today confirmed the iconic band will perform at GMHBA Stadium on Friday 4 March as part of the Labor Government's ALWAYS LIVE program.

Supporting acts at the concert will feature local talent including Amyl and the Sniffers and The Meanies.

ALWAYS LIVE is a new statewide music celebration which will be held across regional Victoria, the CBD and surrounding suburbs in 2022 – showcasing everything Victoria has to offer and attracting music fans from across the country

The March concert will be followed by a program of dozens of events held at venues across Victoria later in the year.

Showcasing a diverse mix of local and international talent, the events are expected to drive music fans into the regions, suburbs and CBD – helping to support local jobs and tourism businesses.

The program delivers on the Government's election commitment to deliver a new music festival held at venues across the state.

ALWAYS LIVE will also bring to life a long-held dream of late Australian music icon Michael Gudinski AM – one of the country's most unwavering and influential live music champions.

The initiative adds to the range of Government support provided to the live music sector, including the *Live Music Restart package*, the *Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund*, the *Sustaining Creative Workers fund* and the *Live Performance Support Programs*.

Tickets for the Foo Fighters will go on sale at midday on Friday 25 February.

To be involved in the ALWAYS LIVE program, expressions of interest are open until 27 February here alwayslive.com.au/get-involved. The full program for ALWAYS LIVE will be released in the middle of the year, after the expressions of interest process is complete.

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

"The Foo Fighters always put on an epic performance and this concert will further cement our position as Australia's home of live music."

"The ALWAYS LIVE program will deliver live music right across Victoria with both local and international artists – showcasing the state on the global stage."

Quotes attributable to ALWAYS LIVE Chair Matt Gudinski

"ALWAYS LIVE was a passion project for my dad to ensure Victoria continued to be recognised as the music capital of Australia, and Melbourne as one of the leading music cities in the world."

Media contact: Anthony Templeton 0475 256 383 | anthony.templeton@minstaff.vic.gov.au

"I know Dad would be very proud to see the event launched and form a major part of re-establishing a thriving live music scene."

Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

"This will be a blockbuster event right here in the heart of our city, drawing in crowds and boosting our local economy."

Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

"This is exciting news for the people of Geelong, with many to flock to the region, supporting tourism and creating more jobs."

Quote attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

"This concert will be a draw card for our region, showcasing everything that Geelong has to offer from restaurants to accommodation while promoting local jobs."

Quote attributable to Member for Lara John Eren

"We are excited to welcome international talent to the stage of Geelong which will be a game changer for our city with tourists and people from across the state coming to see what we have to offer."