

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, 28 February 2022

MARVEL PROJECT A BOOST FOR FANS, FOOTY AND DOCKLANDS

A major redevelopment of Marvel Stadium will take the fan experience to the next level and create hundreds of jobs during construction.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula today joined AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan to inspect the start of construction, made possible thanks to a \$225 million investment from the Andrews Labor Government.

The project will create almost 250 jobs during construction and the stadium will remain operational throughout the works. This will ensure the continued employment of 1500 stadium staff and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of visitors to Docklands as the precinct recovers from the impacts of the global pandemic.

Marvel Stadium's redevelopment will give a boost to local suppliers through the Victorian Government's *Local Jobs First Policy* and *Major Project Skills Guarantee*. Local businesses will also benefit with the project better linking Docklands to the CBD, improving accessibility.

A key feature is the development of Town Square - a new plaza on the southern side of the Stadium. Town Square will provide a year-round all-weather space that is accessible for the general public, an area for community events and markets and a gathering place for fans.

There's an improved game day experience inside with updated hospitality venues looking over the city skyline, a sensory room, changing places facility – which has increased room and equipment for disability access – and multi-faith room. The eastern entrance will feature City Edge – an enhanced concourse space bringing together ticketing, merchandise, and food and drink outlets.

A refurbishment of the change room facilities is levelling the playing field for professional women's sport too, while the fan experience gets a boost with new video scoreboards and themed lighting.

The Marvel Stadium redevelopment forms part of a wider agreement with the AFL that is delivering significant benefits for Victorians. It locks in the AFL Grand Final at the MCG until 2059, secures AFL matches in regional Victoria and guarantees ongoing access to Marvel Stadium for other sporting codes and events.

Further information about the Marvel Stadium Upgrade is available at marvelstadium.com.au/stadium-upgrade

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

"This investment delivers a modern stadium experience for fans and will ensure that it remains a world class venue able to host the big games and events that Victorians love."

"These upgrades will provide a vibrant hub for the Docklands community and will attract more visitors to Melbourne's waterfront."

Quotes attributable to AFL Chief Executive Officer Gillon McLachlan

"This upgrade will enhance the Marvel Stadium experience for players and fans alike, and our partnership with the Victorian Government is delivering for footballers at every level across the state."

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