

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, 18 April 2022

140TH RUNNING OF THE STAWELL GIFT SET TO BE A HUGE SUCCESS

This year's running of the Stawell Gift is set to deliver plenty of action, thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Today's racing features Australia's richest footrace – the Powercor Men's Gift and Change Our Game Women's Gift – with equal prizemoney of \$40,000 up for grabs.

There are also two exciting new races – the AIA Vitality Invitational 1000 metres, featuring the best female middle-distance runners in Australia, and the SYPAQ Defence Forces Handicap, featuring eight active Australian Defence Force personnel.

Attending today's finals, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula congratulated Stawell Gift Event Management, the Stawell Athletic Club, Northern Grampians Shire Council and the Victorian Athletic League for an outstanding weekend.

The influx of competitors, tourists and spectators from around Australia over the Easter weekend delivers a significant boost to local businesses and jobs in Stawell and the region.

That's a key reason why the Labor Government is proudly supporting the Gift with a four-year investment of more than \$1.2 million.

This year's event includes an outstanding line up of athletes with entries up more than 100 on last year, including several past winners.

The live television coverage on Seven will showcase Australia's oldest and most prestigious footrace to a national audience, as well as promote Stawell and the Grampians region, attracting sports fans and tourists to this magnificent part of the world.

The Government supports events in regional Victoria through the *Significant Sporting Events Program* and the \$20 million *Regional Events Fund*, boosting regional tourism and building Victoria's reputation as a premier events destination.

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

"The Gift is better than ever, and thanks to our support, it's set for an even brighter future."

"This iconic event helps to attract visitors to Stawell and the region, providing a boost to local businesses and jobs."