

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, 1 June 2022

BOOSTING EVENTS AND TOURISM IN HORSHAM

The Andrews Labor Government is backing Horsham with a \$2 million investment to redevelop the City Oval and Sawyer Park precinct, creating local jobs and drawing more visitors to the area.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Martin Pakula today announced funding from the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* will go towards transforming the oval into a multi-use public outdoor venue that can be used for large-scale events.

The project will deliver a main stage with covered shelter, high-tech AV, broadcast box and a state-of-the-art digital screen.

A new food and beverage outlet will be installed, as well as improved pedestrian connection between City Oval and Sawyer Park. The improvements will enable the precinct to host a range of outdoor events, including arts and culture, food and sport.

This project will support four jobs during construction and a further 11 indirect jobs when it's up and running. It is expected to be complete by mid-2024.

The new events precinct is expected to attract more than 15,000 people to the region in the first year, injecting more than \$3 million into the local economy.

Tourism is a key contributor to the Grampians region economy, with the region attracting more than 2.5 million visitors in the year ending December 2019.

The Labor Government's *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* is helping entice more visitors to Victoria's regions, driving private investment and accelerating the recovery of the tourism sector.

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

"This new initiative is unique to Horsham, one that will generate employment, support local businesses, and attract more visitors to the Grampians."

"We are proud to be funding a tourism infrastructure project that will ensure that Horsham is at the forefront for regional events."

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

"This project will open up so many opportunities for small-scale and large events in Horsham, attracting people from across the region."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford

"This project delivers important to tourism infrastructure which will create jobs and support local businesses in Horsham and the Grampians region."

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