

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Creative Industries



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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE A TRY UNDER THE POSTS FOR RUGBY

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering world-class sporting infrastructure across the state, with construction of a new elite facility supporting Victorian Rugby Union and grassroots clubs now underway.

Backed by a \$31 million investment from the Labor Government, the new Victorian Rugby Centre of Excellence at La Trobe University Sports Park will provide a home for Rugby Victoria to base its administration, sport development programs and high-performance training.

The Centre of Excellence will also benefit community sport, with local clubs having access the state-of-the-art facilities for development programs, while training for volunteers, administrators, referees and coaches will be conducted at the centre.

It will also be the new home for the Melbourne Rebels Super W team, supporting the development of emerging players and providing a training centre match day field for State representative teams.

Players will have two dedicated rugby fields – one with a grandstand, and a shared field incorporating a rugby field and AFL oval.

The development is a boost for La Trobe University's sports education credentials as well, with the new centre to be available for students' learning and research activities.

It's part of the Labor Government's \$101 million investment into the sporting precinct, which also includes the Home of the Matildas, and is supporting around 600 jobs during construction.

Eighteen major sports infrastructure investments are now underway across the state, with more than \$738 million in active projects invested by the Labor Government ensuring Victoria remains the sporting capital of Australia, attracting national and international events to our top tier facilities.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

"This project is a massive boost for rugby in Victoria, providing a new base for Melbourne Rebels Super W while backing local clubs from the grassroots up."

"Only Labor will deliver the world class sporting venues Victorians deserve, while supporting the training and development of this state's next generation of champions."

Quote attributable to Member for Bundoora Colin Brooks

"We're backing the development opportunities for local players and administrators, while adding another feather in the cap for La Trobe University's sports education and research programs."

Quote attributable to Rugby Victoria President Neil Hay

"We are thrilled with the progress of the project. The early works are well underway, and we look forward to commencing the main works in the new year. This world class facility will be a game changer for rugby in Victoria."

Media contact: Corey Croft 0468 897 764 | corey.croft@minstaff.vic.gov.au