

Media Release

The Hon Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police
Minister for Crime Prevention
Minister for Racing
Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Acting Minister for Creative Industries



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ONE WEEK UNTIL CROWDS FLOCK TO THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN

The Andrews Labor Government is backing the return of another epic Australian Open, with today marking the start of the qualifying competition and one week until the gates open to thousands of fans from around the globe.

With international ticket sales coming from more than 30 countries and all states and territories in Australia, the 2023 Australian Open will drive tourism to Melbourne and Victoria -filling hotels, restaurants and bars, while supporting local jobs and businesses right across the state.

The Australian Open expects to attract a record crowd of 900,000 over three weeks including this week's qualifying matches, high-profile practice matches and Kids Tennis Day.

This year's tournament features players from 46 countries. Beyond the courts, fans will enjoy a festival atmosphere featuring live music, the best local cuisine, kid's activities and a range of events embracing diversity and inclusion.

Over the course of the event, all eyes will be on Melbourne through global broadcasts, promoting Victoria as Australia's sporting capital and a spectacular travel destination that beckons visitors from across the world.

Visitors to this year's event will also enjoy a new permanent artwork on the lawn between Grand Slam Oval and John Cain Arena, designed to acknowledge and pay respect to Traditional Owners and showcase First Nations culture to the world.

Created by Yorta Yorta artist Stan Yarramunua, the sculpture features animal totems and moieties of First Nations peoples, including that of former Australian Open Champion Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

The cultural marker is the latest addition to the Labor Government's near \$1 billion redevelopment of the Melbourne Park precinct, which has ensured the long-term success of the event until at least 2046.

The Australian Open delivered a combined economic benefit of \$405.3 million during 2021 and 2022, while over the past 10 years the event has contributed \$2.71 billion to the Victorian economy.

Quotes attributable to Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport, and Major Events Anthony Carbines

"The Australian Open is an event like no other - we're ready to welcome visitors from near and far to revel in a festival of elite tennis, entertainment and culture."

"The city will be buzzing for the Australian Open 2023, with bumper crowds set to descend on Melbourne for another spectacular event, delivering a major boost to hotels, restaurants, bars and small businesses."

Quote attributable to Tennis Australia CEO Craig Tiley

"We can't wait to welcome fans on-site today for the start of Australian Open qualifying. The site looks fantastic, it's more colourful than ever and we look forward to welcoming fans back to the tennis in big numbers."