

Media Release

Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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SIGNIFICANT SPORTING EVENTS PROGRAM PASSES 1,000 EVENTS

The Allan Labor Government's Significant Sporting Events Program (SSEP) has hit a massive milestone with the program now bringing more than 1,000 sporting events to Victoria since 2010.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos commended the milestone of 1,052 sporting events being secured across the state – including the Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Festival in 2025 and 2026, the Australian Junior Open squash tournament secured until 2027.

The program has also establishing other beloved annual sporting events across the state including the Melbourne and Victorian Open wheelchair tennis events, the transformed Maurie Plant Meet, and annual South East Melbourne Phoenix NBL games being played in Gippsland since 2022.

The Program has six funding rounds each year and has secured sport in all corners of the state – with more than half of all SSEP events being held in regional Victoria.

The sporting events drive visitation, create jobs and keep local hospitality venues, hotels and shopping strips buzzing, and also give local athletes the chance to be part of sporting events near where they live.

Applications are currently open with grants of up to \$150,000 up for grabs, so the program can help bring even more sporting events to Victoria.

For more information about the Significant Sporting Events Program, visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding/significant-sporting-events-program.

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

"Victoria is the sporting and major events capital of Australia, and this program is helping us secure sporting events right across the state – backing local towns, businesses and jobs."

"This flow on effects of these events are huge – they bring people to regional towns and keep local hotels, café and shops buzzing."