

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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## BENDIGO SPORTS AND RECREATION UPGRADES ONE STEP CLOSER

Upgrades at two key venues in Bendigo are a step closer, with builders appointed to deliver works that will support the community and attract more sport and major events to the region.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos today announced AW Nicholson has been appointed to lead the upgrades at Bendigo Showgrounds and Fairbrother Pty Ltd will deliver the upgrades at Bendigo Stadium as part of the *Regional Sports Infrastructure Program*.

Both builders have experience delivering Bendigo projects – Fairbrother delivered the Bendigo Art Gallery and Galkangu - Bendigo GovHub while AW Nicholson was involved in the Bendigo Law Courts Development and Warracknabeal Education Precinct.

Works at Bendigo's premier sporting venue will include two new courts, refurbishment to courts 9 and 10 and lighting upgrades to the 12 outdoor netball courts to ensure local players and visitors have the facilities they need to participate year-round.

Bendigo Stadium is home to the WNBL Bendigo Spirit, the Bendigo Braves in the NBL1, and the Bendigo Strikers in the Victorian Netball League. It's also a thriving hub for community sport, as the home of Bendigo Basketball Association, Bendigo Volleyball Association, and the Central Victorian Netball Association.

Upgrades to the Showgrounds include the construction of a new multipurpose pavilion featuring an event space, improvements to the arena with upgraded lighting, and upgrades to entrances and fencing.

The Showgrounds development will ensure it remains a prime venue for community, cultural, and agricultural events, and support local jobs and businesses during the delivery of the project. Bendigo Agricultural Show Society are being involved throughout the project to ensure the best outcome for the community.

The projects are amongst 16 across regional Victoria which are part of the *Regional Sports Infrastructure Program*, making our communities even better places to live, work, stay and play.

Works for both projects are due to begin in coming months and are expected to finish in late 2026.

For more information about the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program, visit [sport.vic.gov.au/rsip](https://sport.vic.gov.au/rsip).

### **Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos**

*"Appointing the builder for these projects brings us one step closer to upgrades that will support more sport, entertainment and recreation activities for the Bendigo community and visitors alike."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards**

*"These upgrades are a win for the local community and sports clubs that will also support jobs and the local economy."*

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**Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan**

*“Bendigo Stadium and the Showgrounds are two beloved venues and these upgrades will ensure they continue to have world-class facilities for local sporting and community events.”*