

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Monday, 8 December 2025

## **SHEPPARTON FOOTBALL SCORES BIG WITH A-LEAGUE SHOWDOWN**

The Allan Labor Government is bringing top-tier football to regional Victoria, with Shepparton set to host an A-League Women's showdown between heavyweights Melbourne Victory and the Newcastle Jets.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos today announced that the Round 16 clash on 7 February – alongside a suite of community programs – will take place at John McEwen Reserve, one of Victoria's premier regional football precincts.

It will be the first time since 2019 that Shepparton has hosted an A-League Women's match for competition points, thanks to support from the Labor Government's Significant Sporting Events Program.

The showcase will feature a dynamic multi-day engagement program, with Melbourne Victory players visiting schools and community services to deliver school clinics, a masterclass program, and community coaching workshops.

Football fans will also have the chance to see current and future Matildas stars, such as Alex Chidiac, while supporting local clubs and aspiring players from diverse backgrounds.

Over 1150 events have been secured through the Significant Sporting Events Program program, with more than half held in regional Victoria, keeping local businesses busy, hotels and shopping strips bustling and local economies strong.

These events help increase sports participation among the community and bring more elite sport to regional Victoria.

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

*"Shepparton has proud football history, and this is a fantastic opportunity for local football fans to see their sporting heroes up close as we continue to bring Victoria's enviable sporting calendar to all corners of the state."*

*"It's important to continue to champion the women's game and this regional showcase will not only highlight our elite athletes but raise awareness of participation opportunities and talent pathways for women and girls."*

### **Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes**

*"It's great to see Shepparton hosting professional football again, these fixtures will afford local clubs the chance to learn from their sporting heroes and help nurture the next generation of football players and fans."*