

Media Release

The Hon John Eren MP
Minister for Tourism & Major Events
Minister for Sport
Minister for Veterans



Tuesday, 5 April, 2016

DEMOLITION WORKS BEGIN AT ROD LAVER ARENA

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the job of a major upgrade of Melbourne Park, to keep us number one for the big sport and entertainment events.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren today visited the world-class precinct, where works on the second phase of a \$700 million upgrade are under way.

The \$338 million Stage Two project will include a major refurbishment of Rod Laver Arena, a media centre, and a new footbridge linking Birrarung Marr and Melbourne Park.

Demolition of Rod Laver Arena's front steps have begun, paving the way for the newly-designed southern annex, and expanded loading bay.

A more efficient loading bay will mean events can bump in and out faster, and that means more of the big sporting events and world-class entertainment acts that make Melbourne great.

Improved eateries will offer visitors a wider array of options, while new outlets at ground level will mean patrons will no longer need to journey back to the concourse for food and drinks.

The Batman Avenue Bridge will shave pedestrian travel time from Flinders Street Station to Birrarung Marr to under 10 minutes. The Labor Government is offering Victorians a chance to secure their place in history and contribute to the naming of the bridge. Competition winners will be announced soon.

The bridge will provide a safer route for fans, and stop crowds crossing Batman Avenue at road level. It means the thousands of fans that attend our events will be able to get to and from the action safely.

Melbourne Park hosts some 200 events annually, including the Australian Open. The Grand Slam attracts visitors from all over the world, and creates 1440 jobs each year.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism and Major Events John Eren

"We're getting on with the job of delivering this major upgrade of Melbourne Park. The project will create jobs, boost pedestrian safety and confirm our status as the sporting and major events capital."

"It's no surprise the biggest and best sporting and entertainment events want to come to Melbourne. The Melbourne Park precinct is simply unrivalled."

"This major investment in Melbourne Park will create around 1300 jobs during construction alone – a massive win for Victorian workers and the community."