

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Victorian
Labor

**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Tuesday, 13 November 2018

A BIGGER, BETTER EUREKA SPORTS PRECINCT FOR BALLARAT

Families and fans in Ballarat will be able to rely on great local sporting facilities, with a re-elected Andrews Labor Government to deliver \$11.8 million to transform the Eureka Sports Precinct.

Labor will take the Eureka Sports Precinct to the next level to attract more blockbuster games, create jobs and develop the next generation of local sports stars.

Young athletes in Ballarat will have a clear pathway to playing elite level basketball, with a new high-performance basketball training hub to be established at the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre.

Labor will invest a further \$5.2 million on top of the \$9 million already delivered to expand the centre – boosting local participation by 10 per cent and helping the precinct secure new competitions, tournaments and events.

The expansion will include six new courts for multi-sport use including basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton. It will also feature a 3,000-seat show court, learning rooms and sports medicine facilities.

Students at Federation University, local athletes and sporting clubs will all benefit from a new strength, conditioning and learning centre, as well as three new outdoor courts.

The project will also deliver new change rooms and toilets, a staff administration area, a café, 275 car parks and a bus drop-off area.

The Andrews Labor Government has delivered \$38.5 million to redevelop the Eureka Sports Precinct, which includes upgrading Mars Stadium, and revitalising C.E. Brown Reserve and the Wendouree Sports and Events Centre, but there's more to do.

That is why Labor will deliver \$6.6 million to boost the game day experience at Mars Stadium, helping to bring more major sporting events to Ballarat, including more AFL games.

The funding will upgrade entrances with new ticket boxes and covered areas to make it easier and more comfortable for fans to enter the ground, permanent bathrooms to replace temporary toilets on match days and additional accessible seating in the Western and Eastern Stands.

Fans will also have a clearer view of the action with improved standing areas, and permanent food and beverage areas for that half time meat pie or jam donut.

Labor invested a further \$500,000 to start planning for the second stage of the Mars Stadium redevelopment to improve this great ground and secure two AFL games in Ballarat every year for the next decade.

Labor has delivered the biggest investment in community sport in Victoria's history, with \$420 million dedicated to grassroots sport – investing nearly four times more than the Liberal Nationals did when they were in government.

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Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"We're investing in the future of Mars Stadium to bring more footy, more visitors and more jobs to Ballarat."

"This investment will ensure every kid in Ballarat gets their shot on the court, secure the future of AFL footy in Ballarat and boost the game day experience for players, fans, and the community."

Quote attributable to Minister for Sport John Eren

"While the Liberals opposed the construction of Mars Stadium and short-changed local sports clubs in Ballarat – only Labor will invest in the projects this community really needs."

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford

"We're backing local athletes of all ages with a new indoor sports hub that will also attract major events that create jobs for our community."

Quote attributable to Labor Candidate for Buninyong Michaela Settle

"Whether it's bringing AFL footy to Ballarat or delivering the things grassroots clubs need the most to grow – only Labor will make sure our region has the sporting facilities it deserves."

Quote attributable to Labor candidate for Wendouree Juliana Addison

"Our community loves playing sport, with thousands of local kids and adults of all ages getting on the court each week. This investment ensures our local athletes get to train and play in the world class facilities they deserve."