

# Ballarat Major Events Precinct – FAQs

Updated 10 July 2024

## Ballarat Major Events Precinct

### What is being delivered at Eureka Stadium?

The Victorian Government is delivering a suite of upgrades\* to Eureka Stadium (also known as Mars Stadium) and the broader Ballarat Major Events Precinct as part of the Ballarat Sports Package.

The project will see Eureka Stadium receive 5,000 new permanent seats, raising the overall seated capacity to 10,000.

New seats also mean more amenities and more food and beverage options to continue to improve the spectator experience at the venue.

It will also include accessibility upgrades and a new athletics track to the south of the stadium.

The spectator seating upgrades have been developed in partnership with the City of Ballarat and are consistent with its vision for the site.

These upgrades will create better sporting facilities for the Ballarat community while enhancing the region's capacity to host great sport and entertainment events.

The broader Ballarat Major Events Precinct will also be boosted with a brand-new athletics track and pavilion for the local track and field community in and around Ballarat.

The new athletics track will be located on the Ballarat Showgrounds site, which was formerly home to the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS). This is part of Council's long-term vision for the Ballarat Major Events Precinct, which follows Council's pre-existing agreement with BAPS to relocate to a new site in Mt Rowan.

\*Subject to planning approval and the outcome of a procurement process.

### When will construction begin?

Demolition on the Showgrounds land is set to begin in mid-2024, with construction at Eureka Stadium set to begin in early 2025.

### What are the benefits of this project?

The project will help to boost the region's economy through the creation of local jobs, and utilising local supply chains throughout delivery, creating opportunities for local businesses and attracting more visitors to the Ballarat region.

The Victorian Government's investment in the Ballarat Major Events Precinct will enhance the region's capacity to host great sport and entertainment events as the Ballarat region continues to grow.

## **What is the Ballarat Sports Package?**

As part of the Victorian Government's investment in making regional communities an even better place to live, stay and play for generations to come, the Ballarat Sports Package was announced in April 2024.

This package is focused on delivering world-class sporting facilities in Ballarat, with huge upgrades to infrastructure so more grassroots and elite players and fans can enjoy the sport they love, close to home.

In addition to the Ballarat Major Events Precinct upgrades, the growing suburb of Miners Rest will also receive a new community sports facility to make sure more people can play the sport they love close to home. The new facility will feature a competition-grade oval, sports pavilion with carparking, amenities and change rooms.

The Ballarat Sports Events Centre will also get court upgrades, broadcast and lighting updates, and improved accessibility, so local teams have the facilities they need to succeed on and off the court.

## **What opportunities will there be for local businesses and suppliers on this project?**

Suppliers who are interested in providing goods or services on this project, should register their details on the [ICN Gateway Page](#).

## **Who has been appointed as the design consultants for these upgrades?**

In 2023 it was announced that the design consultants for these upgrades will be a partnership between Cox Architecture and Ballarat firm Morton + Co Architects. This appointment will see Cox Architecture and Morton + Co Architects leading the upgrades from concept design phase through to detailed design and construction. This process is already well progressed.

The partnership was chosen following an extensive and robust selection process managed by Development Victoria, the Victorian Government's major projects agency and delivery partner for the Ballarat Major Events Precinct upgrades.

## **Are the design consultants linked to the Ballarat region?**

The design consultant appointment comprises a partnership formed between Cox Architecture and Ballarat firm Morton + Co Architects, ensuring the construction of the venues will provide local job opportunities and boost the region's economy.

The North Ballarat Football and Netball Club Development Project and Ballarat Grammar School Sports Centre are among Morton + Co Architects' extensive portfolio of local projects.

## **Does this project have planning approval?**

A request has been made for the Minister for Planning to amend the planning provisions to facilitate this project. The planning scheme amendment is made under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and will insert a new incorporated document into the Ballarat Planning Scheme to exempt the project from the requirements of this planning scheme, and to provide specific controls for the use and development of the project.

Before the Minister for Planning considers this amendment, consultation with local councils, agencies, stakeholder groups, and nearby owners and occupiers is being carried out to ensure that views on the project are known.

### **How will you manage disruptions to current users of Eureka Stadium during construction?**

Regular updates will be provided to current users of Eureka Stadium and other key stakeholders surrounding any disruptions which may occur. We will work closely with the City of Ballarat and the affected parties to minimise these disruptions. Pleasingly, the stadium will remain open for community sport through the construction period.

### **How will you manage disruptions to nearby residents and businesses during construction?**

We will work hard to minimise any impacts for the local community. Works notices will be distributed to residents and businesses adjacent to the Ballarat Major Events Precinct when main works commence and throughout the construction process whenever planned disruptions or traffic management activities are scheduled.

### **With a bigger sports precinct, how will you manage car parking in the local area?**

To accommodate the new athletics track, a car park with a minimum of 69 new car parking spaces will be built, including those to support electric vehicles. City of Ballarat will continue to provide park and ride options from Ballarat train station to support major events.

### **What is Council's role?**

The City of Ballarat is the land and facility owner of the Ballarat Major Events Precinct sites. Council is also an important stakeholder on this project, and will have an ongoing role in the design of the Precinct.

### **Will you be removing any trees to deliver these upgrades?**

Yes. A number of trees will need to be removed during upgrade works within the Ballarat Major Events Precinct.

All large native trees will be retained, and for every tree taken down, two new trees will be planted as replacements creating more canopy and shade cover in the area.

The trees which do need to be taken down will remain on site with the larger trunks retained for sculpture, play and wildlife habitat.

Small branches and smaller trees will be mulched and retained on site for use in newly created garden beds.

A large portion of the Ballarat Showgrounds site will be returned as public recreation space, and spaces for meeting and reflection will be created within the new public accessible spaces including new seating.

### **Will the community be consulted on these upgrades?**

A series of community information sessions are being held at Eureka Stadium and online during June 2024. These sessions will allow us to inform the community on plans for the project, to share the designs, and to provide more information on what can be expected during the delivery process.

### **What role will Traditional Owners play in the design of this project?**

We are partnering with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation on the design of this project, centred around principles of Healing Country. More information on how Wadawurrung culture and design elements have been embedded within the designs will be shared as the project progresses.

### **Is there a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the project site?**

Yes. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been developed for this project.

### **Question received during Community Information Session**

#### **How many trees will be removed? What is the size and scale of the trees that will be planted?**

As part of the development works over 300 native trees will be planted with each tree between 2-3 metres tall. There will be further smaller shrubs and greenery that will be planted as part of the overall landscape works.

All large native trees will be retained, and for every tree taken down, a minimum of two new trees will be planted as replacements creating more canopy and shade cover in the area. In total, 34 trees will be removed as part of the works.

The trees which do need to be taken down will remain on site with the larger trunks retained for sculpture, play and wildlife habitat.

Small branches and smaller trees will be mulched and retained on site for use in newly created garden beds.

## Ballarat Showgrounds

### **Why is the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS) moving from the Showgrounds site?**

The Ballarat Showgrounds site is being incorporated into the Ballarat Major Events Precinct, under a vision set out by the City of Ballarat.

This has resulted in the City of Ballarat acquiring the Showgrounds site from BAPS.

In 2018, BAPS agreed to relocate from the Showgrounds site to their new home in Mount Rowan.

To support delivery timelines for the Ballarat Major Events Precinct, BAPS was required to relocate from the Showgrounds site by January 2024. An extension has since been provided, with the new relocation date currently scheduled for mid-2024.

### **What support has the Victorian Government provided to BAPS?**

In 2018 the Victorian Government, through Regional Development Victoria, provided BAPS with \$5 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund to relocate to their new home in Mount Rowan.

This funding supported the relocation through two phases.

Phase One included acquisition of the new Showgrounds site and associated infrastructure upgrades.

Phase Two will deliver an Exhibition Centre and Cattle Pavilion.

Phase Two works are now underway.

This funding will provide BAPS with a modern event space that will help them to expand their event offerings and encourage an increase in visitation and spending in the region.

### **Will this affect the future of the Ballarat Show?**

The new Showgrounds in Mount Rowan will be the home for future iterations of the Ballarat Show.

We look forward to seeing the Ballarat Show continue to delight visitors in Mount Rowan.

### **What is happening on the BAPS site?**

Plans for the former Ballarat Showgrounds site include a new athletics track and pavilion including additional elements such as light towers, landscaping and a storage shed. We will also be creating new public open space, including landscaping and new seating.

These will all be delivered on the site which was formerly home to the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society (BAPS) as part of Council's long-term vision for the Ballarat Major Events Precinct. This follows Council's pre-existing agreement with BAPS to relocate to a new site in Mt Rowan.

BAPS will be relocating from this site in mid-2024, with demolition of the former showgrounds buildings to commence shortly afterwards.

## Development Victoria

### What is Development Victoria's role in the Ballarat Major Events Precinct?

Development Victoria is delivering the upgrades to Eureka Stadium and the wider Ballarat Major Events Precinct on behalf of Sport and Recreation Victoria.

### What other Regional Sports Infrastructure projects will be delivered by Development Victoria?

Of the 15 new and upgraded sports facilities which are being delivered by the Victorian Government across regional Victoria, Development Victoria will be responsible for delivering a number of these projects, with local councils to deliver the remaining projects.

We are delivering:

- **Ballarat** – Ballarat Major Events Precinct upgrades.
- **Bendigo** – Bendigo Showgrounds and Bendigo Stadium upgrades.
- **Geelong** – The new Armstrong Creek Sports Centre and upgrades to Stead Park.
- **Gippsland** – Upgrades to Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Park, and Morwell Gun Club

### What experience does Development Victoria have delivering projects in Ballarat?

Development Victoria already has significant experience in delivering projects for the Ballarat community, having delivered the Ballarat GovHub, which was completed in 2021.

This \$100 million project was a catalyst for job creation and economic growth in the city.

Delivering this project involved around 350,000 work hours, with 500 jobs created during construction and more than 30 local and regional suppliers involved.

### What experience does Development Victoria have delivering sports infrastructure projects?

We are in the planning and early delivery stages for a number of regional sports infrastructure projects across Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland.

We have also delivered the State Basketball Centre, recent upgrades to Melbourne Park, and the State Netball and Hockey Centre.

**State Basketball Centre** - The Victorian State Government's \$132 million upgrade of the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna South is now complete.

The project has created one of Australia's leading basketball facilities that will support the continued growth of basketball and gymnastics at local and elite levels.

The redevelopment included:

- 12 new indoor community courts for local basketball competitions for a total of 18 courts
- Comprehensive training facilities for high-performance basketball including WNBL and NBL teams
- New gymnastics facilities
- New administration facilities to support sports organisations and clubs
- An outdoor town square space and new cafe.

**Melbourne Park** - Thanks to the nearly \$1 billion Melbourne Park Redevelopment funded by the Victorian Government, Melbourne Park will remain the home of the Australian Open until at least 2046, providing the best facilities and amenities for players and fans alike, including three operable roof and air-conditioned arenas effectively weatherproofing the tournament.

The project includes a strong emphasis on the comfort of patrons with more open space and shade, increased seating capacity, better connections to public transport and the city, and easier movement into and within the precinct.

**State Netball and Hockey Centre** - Now known as Melbourne Sports Centres – Parkville, the \$64.6 million State Netball and Hockey Centre (SNHC) redevelopment is the centrepiece of the Victorian Government’s record investment in women’s sport.

We delivered six new indoor netball courts, a new indoor hockey pitch, hot and cold recovery pools, a creche for parents playing at the centre, and a high-performance strength and conditioning gym.

The netball arm of the centre now has 11 indoor courts – creating greater capacity for year-round play. The new indoor hockey court similarly provides more opportunities and pathways for players.

The expanded centre will also allow for more use by volleyball, basketball, futsal, badminton and table tennis players and will be home to the Women in Sport Leadership Centre.