Message from the Minister

The site of the Athletes Village is rich in history, and in less than 500 days time, it will be getting a brand new chapter.

By March 2006, the area will be a temporary home to athletes from 71 nations – people brought together by a combination of shared ideals and personal achievement.

After the Games, it will become a new community for Victorian families and an example of balancing environment, community and economy.

The recent completion of the display village is an important step to achieving these outcomes.

The six homes demonstrate how the Village will ultimately be one of the greenest inner-city estates in Victoria. And it gives us a chance to highlight services that will be available to people living in and around this new neighbourhood – things like 100 social housing apartments and a 100 bed aged care facility. A 90 place child care centre is also planned.

Siting the Village in Parkville is an opportunity to bring old and new together in celebration of a landmark event. Accordingly, the Victorian Government is refurbishing 11 original buildings of the former psychiatric institute.

There are challenges, as well. The Athens Olympics raised the bar in terms of the quality of accommodation expected at major sporting events. Our Village is aiming to meet that benchmark.

Overall, the Village is breathing new life into this part of Parkville – and creating benefits that will last long after the last athlete has gone home.

There are many milestones to come and I look forward to keeping you up to date in the future.

JUSTIN MADDEN MLC
Minister for Commonwealth Games

Athletes inspect foundations of a new community

The first six homes of the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village in Parkville opened in October 2004.

Four Victorian athletes joined the Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Justin Madden, to see the beginnings of a new community that will first be home to 6,000 athletes and officials, before becoming a new home to around 1,000 Victorian families.

The visit gave athletes a taste for how the site will function during the Games. It also offered a look at how the Village will function as a new neighbourhood, called Parkville Gardens.

Following the Games, Parkville Gardens will grow as a staged development until 2011.

Community Liaison Committee

A Community Liaison Committee is meeting regularly to discuss how to minimise the impact of construction and operation of the Athletes Village on local residents and surrounding areas.

The Committee is Chaired by Mary Gillett, Parliamentary Secretary for the Commonwealth Games, with representatives from:

- three local Councils
- local residents
- local businesses and institutions
- Environment Protection Authority
- Government departments.

For information about the Community Liaison Committee contact:

Farah Bach
Project Manager
Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination
Phone: (03) 9208 3008

Athletes Don Elgin, Ellen Steele, Sharelle McMahon and Craig Mottram at the Athletes Village.
The Village at Games time

In March 2006, the Athletes Village will be the hub of Games activity when it hosts 4,500 athletes and 1,500 team officials.

The Athletes Village will be open for 25 days, with each nation occupying a specific area.

The Village will include 155 detached houses, 32 studios, 28 townhouses, approximately 103 apartments and around 115 temporary accommodation buildings.

Dining halls, a training area, a medical centre, religious facilities, an internet café, and entertainment and 'break-out' areas are just some of the temporary facilities that will also be in place, geared to making the athletes stay in Melbourne the best possible.

Detailed planning is now underway for exactly how the Village will operate during the Games, including traffic and transport.

The Village after the Games

When the Commonwealth Games are over, the Victorian Government will hand the Village over to the property developer, Village Park Consortium. The houses and apartments will be refitted in preparation for new residents to move in.

Development of the site will continue in stages to around 2011, with a mix of two and three storey homes and apartment buildings ranging from three to 11 storeys.

Around 2.5 hectares of the site will be public open space and a network of bike paths and walking trails will link to Royal Park, Melbourne Zoo and other nearby recreation facilities.

Long after the Games are over, the Village will provide environmentally friendly living, offering close proximity to public transport, established parklands, education facilities and major transport links, all within four kilometres of Melbourne’s CBD.

A five-hectare wetlands will offer a...
The wetlands – a new home for native plants and animals

A five-hectare wetlands, being created between the Village and Royal Park, will provide a recreation area, improved water quality into Moonee Ponds Creek and surrounding habitat, and recycled water to irrigate surrounding parkland and sports fields.

The Victorian Government is contributing $5 million towards the wetlands, which is a City of Melbourne project.

Construction began in September 2004 and is due to be completed by the end of 2005.

A rich heritage celebrated

In the past, the Athletes Village has been the site of an experimental farm, a school, and a psychiatric institution. This rich heritage is being celebrated, with the Victorian Government contributing $5 million to refurbish the 11 core buildings of the former Royal Park Psychiatric Institute.

The buildings were constructed between 1906 and 1937 and were listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in June 2004. Renovation works commenced recently.

During the Games the heritage precinct will be the centrepiece of the Athletes Village, providing accommodation and support services for athletes.

After the Games, it will be the focal point of a new community, offering residential living, community facilities and a landscaped plaza.

Accessibility at the forefront of design

With elite athletes with a disability competing at the Commonwealth Games, design of the Athletes Village has incorporated Australian standards in accessibility and advice from key disability groups.

Almost all the dwellings will include wheelchair accessible living rooms and the majority of the permanent dwellings will also include wheelchair accessible toilet and shower facilities.

The accessibility advantages of homes will provide an ongoing legacy for future residents, setting new benchmarks for elderly and disabled access.

Paralympian Ellen Steele demonstrates how easy it is to get around the open plan layout of the Athletes Village homes.
Setting new benchmarks in sustainability

The Athletes Village will be a leading example of environmentally friendly design and construction, with features such as:

• a six star energy rating for every house
• solar hot water systems
• rainwater collection and reuse systems
• grey water treatment and reuse systems
• AAA rated water efficient fittings
• sensor lighting and energy efficient appliances
• solar powered and energy efficient street lighting
• over 1,000 mature native trees planted
• drought tolerant landscaping
• recycling of demolition and construction waste

Rainwater collection systems will reduce water consumption.

Gibson Avenue – a new road link

Works are underway for a new road link and upgrade to Gibson Avenue. The bulk of the new road link will be completed by February 2005, providing:

• improved access from the Tullamarine Freeway and Brunswick Road to the Village
• new traffic lights at the intersection of Gibson Avenue and Brunswick Road
• reduced traffic impacts on local roads
• preservation of existing residential areas
• a cul-de-sac at the western end of Park Street to prevent through traffic between Park Street and the new link.

A temporary connection to the link will be provided for use during the Commonwealth Games. Park Street will also be resurfaced along the frontage of the Athletes Village site.

The Village will provide 100 social housing apartments, a 100 bed aged care facility and a 90 place child care centre, is planned.

Project management

Major Projects Victoria, a division of the Department of Infrastructure, is responsible for the management of the project.

Melbourne 2006, the Organising Committee for the Commonwealth Games, will manage the operation of the Village during the Games.

Progress at a glance

• 75 houses now under construction.
• 9 houses in the display village are complete.
• Construction commenced on five social housing apartment buildings.
• Majority of in-ground services (such as sewerage, electricity, gas and water) completed.
• 90% of road works completed by end of 2004.
• Gate 1 access off Park Street will continue to be used for private vehicles of construction workers.
• Gate 2 access off Park Street will be used for visitors to the display village.
• Construction vehicles will continue to access the site from the Oak Street entrance.
## Athletes Village project timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2002</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 2003</td>
<td>Minister for Commonwealth Games releases determinations following public consultation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2003</td>
<td>Site handover and construction works commence.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2003</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2004</td>
<td>First meeting of Community Liaison Committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2004</td>
<td>11 original hospital buildings listed on Victorian Heritage Register.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2004</td>
<td>Wetlands development commenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2004</td>
<td>Parkville Gardens Display Village Opens. First homes go on sale to public.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2005</td>
<td>New road link and Gibson Avenue upgrade (Stage 1) completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>Athletes Village construction completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2005</td>
<td>Fit out for Athletes Village commences.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late 2005</td>
<td>Wetlands completed.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early March 2006</td>
<td>Athletes begin to move in to Village.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2006</td>
<td>Site handed over to developer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late 2006</td>
<td>Post Games construction continues. New residents move in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2006 onwards</strong></td>
<td>Village Park Consortium completes remaining apartments.</td>
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</tbody>
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**For more information**

For recorded information in English, please call 9209 0179.

For more information in Arabic, please call 9209 0190.

For more information in Chinese, please call 9209 0196.

For more information in French, please call 9209 0191.

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