



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Tourism, Sport and
Major Events

Tourism, Sport and Major Events Portfolio

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2025/26 Budget Estimates**

10 June 2025



State of the Portfolio Sport

Sport is fundamental to Victorians and generates significant benefits to our state's economy.

- The sport and active recreation sector provides at least **\$9.2 billion** in Gross Value Add to Victoria's economy annually.
- Over **71,000** full time equivalent jobs are supported through the sport and active recreation sector.
- Victoria is home to **52** professional sports teams and **32** national sports organisations.



State of the Portfolio

Tourism and Major Events

Victoria is the tourism and major events capital of Australia and continues to deliver economic growth to our state.

- Victoria's tourism sector reached a new high of **\$40 billion** in total visitor expenditure in the year ending December 2024.
- International visitors continue to rebuild at **86%** of 2019 levels.
- Tourism jobs in Victoria were up 8% year on year to **288,800 jobs** in 2023-24, outpacing overall jobs growth in Victoria over the same period (+3%).
- Victoria's major events calendar is valued at **\$3.3 billion** per annum.

Our Achievements – Sport

Continued support for our Victorian athletes, sporting events and world-class infrastructure.

- ➔ Celebrated the success of the **122 Victorian Institute of Sport athletes** at the 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris who returned with 23 medals – including 5 gold.
- ➔ Supported 91 Significant Sporting Events in 2024-25, including the 2025 Maurie Plant Meet which attracted a sell out crowd of almost **10,000 attendees**.
- ➔ Commenced construction of the Ballarat Major Events Precinct upgrade which will include **5,000 new permanent seats** at Mars Stadium, raising the seated capacity to 10,000.



Our Achievements – Major Events

Continued to support a world class events calendar

- ➔ Melbourne is the only city in the world hosting a Grand Prix and Grand Slam.
- ➔ A record **465,498** visitors attended the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, beating the previous record set at last year's race by over **13,000 visitors**.
- ➔ The 2025 Australian Open will officially go down as the biggest ever drawing a record crowd of more than **1.2 million** total tennis fans.
- ➔ Melbourne has the most interstate overnight visitors of all Australian cities – our strong events calendar helping to attract **6.0 million** in 2024.
- ➔ **23 major events** (Major Events Fund), **55 regional events** (Regional Events Fund) and **28 business events** (Business Events Fund) are expected to be held in 2024-25.



Our Achievements – Tourism

Tourism is delivering important initiatives through the Experience Victoria 2033 Strategy and supporting Victorian communities.

- ➔ A further record high of **\$645 million** in international overnight spend in regional Victoria was achieved in 2024.
- ➔ We supported **12** Visitor Economy Partnerships and Regional Tourism Boards to deliver industry strengthening activities.
- ➔ Supported **203** infrastructure projects across rural and regional Victoria through tourism infrastructure programs.
- ➔ Launched the **\$8 million** Enabling Tourism Fund 2024 and the **\$62 million** Regional Tourism Investment Fund 2024 to support the development of tourism infrastructure in regional Victoria and the **\$3.6 million** First Peoples Tourism Industry Strengthening Program.





Budget Initiatives

Tourism, Sport and Major Events

- **\$11 million** over 3 years for the Victorian Convention and Event Trust to open and operate the Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre.
- **\$11 million** over 2 years for Visitor Economy Partnerships operations to support the growth of regional visitor economies.
- **\$7.5 million** over 2 years for the Melbourne Convention Bureau, Business Events Victoria, and the Business Events Fund to attract and deliver business events.
- **\$1.2 million** over 2025-26 to support the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board deliver legislated regulatory requirements and a full review of the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act 1985.