

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Thursday, 08 January, 2015

SIMONDS STADIUM TO BE UPGRADED AND PRESERVED

The Andrews Labor Government will fast track the elevation of Simonds Stadium (Kardinia Park) to trust status so a landmark \$70 million redevelopment of the ground can start this year.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined Minister for Sport and Member for Lara, John Eren, at Simonds Stadium today to announce that former Premier Steve Bracks will help establish, and chair, the new Kardinia Park Trust.

The Labor Government will bring forward \$400,000 in funding to fast track the Trust's establishment, so construction can commence on the ground's \$70 million upgrade immediately after the 2015 football season.

Mr Bracks will lead a committee providing advice to the Government on the formal establishment of the Trust. The Committee will report back to Government in time to ensure we can introduce legislation this year.

Upon its formation, Mr Bracks will be appointed the inaugural Chair of the Trust, bringing with him extensive experience in public life and a passion for the Geelong Cats.

The committee will undertake extensive consultation with the City of Greater Geelong, the Geelong Football Club and the community to make sure the ground remains the heart and soul of sport in Geelong.

When trust status is achieved, the stadium will officially stand alongside the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the league of great Australian sporting arenas.

The Labor Government's \$70 million redevelopment of Simonds Stadium will increase its seating capacity to 36,000 and create 90 jobs during construction and 320 jobs ongoing.

Quotes attributable to Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews

"They've played footy here for well over a century. It's Geelong's sacred turf. We'll preserve it and upgrade it, so it can host bigger and better events all year round."

"Our \$70 million redevelopment will give this stadium a new life and our plan for trust status will give it a safe future."

"Soon, Simonds Stadium will stand side-by-side with the MCG in the sporting hall of fame. Trust status means the heart and soul of this city will never be up for sale."

"Steve Bracks brings with him a passion for the Cats and regional sport, and an unrivaled expertise in government, business and community life."