

# Bruce Atkinson

Spokesperson for Small Business,  
Sport and Recreation

Parliament House  
Spring Street, Melbourne 3002  
Tel: 9651 8512 • Fax: 9651 8426  
Email: bruce.atkinson@parliament.vic.gov.au



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **BRACKS MUST GIVE GUARANTEE ON BOXING DAY TEST**

The Bracks Government must assure Victorians that the Boxing Day test will not be disrupted by construction work at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) this year and in 2005.

Cricket Victoria will be forced to relocate Pura Cup games to Junction Oval while one day internationals and any special matches will have to be shifted to Telstra Dome during the 2005-2006 season.

While the construction works for the 2006 Commonwealth Games will not affect the AFL fixture, cricket will be forced to shift venues.

Labor's Commonwealth Games Minister Justin Madden has agreed to provide compensation to the AFL for any revenue losses associated with lower seating capacity at the MCG for the finals series but has yet to establish a process for Cricket Victoria to be compensated for any disruption to its fixtures and associated losses.

The Boxing Day test is one of the premier events on Melbourne's sporting calendar and there is little doubt that Queensland Premier, Peter Beattie, will be waiting to pounce if there is any uncertainty about the availability of the MCG in either 2005 or 2006.

The Bracks Government must guarantee that the MCG will be available, and in adequate condition to play test cricket, for the Boxing Day test against Pakistan this year and South Africa next year.

Labor must also immediately determine a compensation package for Cricket Victoria in the event of any glitch in negotiations for the transfer of matches to Telstra Dome or if the MCG is not ready for the Boxing Day fixtures.

These sporting events are too important to Victoria to be lost to other states as a result of Bracks Government mismanagement.

**Media contact: Bruce Atkinson 0403 057 722**