

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

Wednesday, 9 March 2005

ANOTHER BRACKS BUNGLE IN MELBOURNE'S SPORTS PRECINCT

The Bracks Government is considering the sale of an important pocket of land between the city and Melbourne's world-class sports precinct without waiting for advice on a master plan commissioned by the Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust.

The piece of land, between Batman Avenue and the railway lines alongside the Exhibition Street extension, could be used for future expansion of practice courts and other facilities for the Melbourne Tennis Centre which is landlocked in its site on the corner of Batman Avenue and Swan Street.

The master plan will also examine options for the development of a new 20,000-seat stadium to accommodate the Melbourne Victory soccer team and Melbourne Storm rugby team.

The Bracks Government must hold off on its dash for cash, at least until the master plan is complete.

The decision to prepare a master plan for the sports and entertainment precinct was made after Labor was forced to abandon a Latrobe University development in the middle of the Olympic Park and Melbourne Tennis Centre sports precinct.

The land the Bracks Government is proposing to sell has been occupied by Vicroads and is located between the Central Business District, the Birrarung Marr park and the Melbourne Tennis Centre.

Development of the site could have an adverse impact on the sports and entertainment precinct and destroy an important gateway.

The Bracks Government must abandon its plans to sell off the site until its strategic importance is assessed as part of the master plan.

Melbourne has one of, if not the best sports and entertainment precincts in the world and it would be disastrous if the Bracks Government pre-empted the release of the master plan and appropriate consultation process by selling off a site of strategic importance as part of a dash for cash to fund its over-spending.

Media contact:

Bruce Atkinson 0403 057 722