

COMMUNITY CALLS ON PREMIER TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY ON THE JUNCTION AS THE HOME OF CRICKET

From Junction Area Action Group, Save Albert Park, St Kilda Cricket Club, South Melbourne District Sports Club, Collegians FC, and the St Kilda Sports Club

Local residents and community groups around Albert Park and St Kilda Junction have called on Premier Andrews to act decisively on Labor's promise to create a new home for cricket at a renovated Junction Oval.

Years of neglect and ongoing uncertainty need to be brought to an end once and for all, says a community alliance which includes the Junction Area Action Group, Save Albert Park, St Kilda Cricket Club, South Melbourne District Sports Club, Collegians FC, and the St Kilda Sports Club.

Their call follows the election of the Andrews Government on the promise of supporting Cricket Victoria's plan to make the Junction the home of Cricket in Victoria.

Proposals by the AFL to expand the Cricket Plan would require the Government to consider significant changes to the plan.

"Labor's win in the seat of Albert Park and in the state election doesn't just mean that it has a mandate to implement the plan put forward by Cricket Victoria – it means the Andrews Government has an obligation to do so," said SAP's Peter Logan on behalf of the community groups.

"This is the only formal plan on the table. It has been the subject of wide consultation, and preserves the open spaces and community access to Albert Park. It secures the future of the historic Junction Oval. It is good for the community, the Park and sport. We trust that the Premier will make good his word."

Both major sports would be winners under the Plan, which would create a dedicated centre of excellence for Victorian Cricket, and also free up the MCG for the AFL at the start of its season.

The groups say that any development in Albert Park, including the Junction Oval and Oval One, must be subject to proper planning, community consultation, and management. The Junction Oval development must also protect the integrity of the Park and the rights of its users by:-

- Remaining within the existing Junction Oval footprint;
- Maintaining and extending facilities accessible by the community within the footprint and around it in Albert Park; and
- Adopting a design that is consistent with the neighbourhood and local planning standards.

The Plan that has been released appears to meet these fundamental requirements. We call on the Government and Port Phillip Council as the local planning authority to ensure they are upheld as the design and construction move ahead. We call on both levels of Government to rule out alternative proposals.

The time for whispering campaigns and backrooms deals is over. We look forward to Premier Andrews moving immediately to keep his election promise by confirming the Cricket Victoria plan, and starting the planning process.

Ends.

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