



JAMES MERLINO MP

STATE MEMBER FOR MONBULK



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MEDIA RELEASE

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RAMPING UP SUPPORT FOR NEW EMERALD SKATE PARK

Emerald's growing ranks of skateboarders will soon have a brand-new home to take their tricks to the next level thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Member for Monbulk James Merlino joined Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing today to announce the Andrews Labor Government has invested \$1 million to deliver a new skate park and recreation space at Worrell Reserve.

With more families moving into the Emerald area, there is a growing demand for a proper skate facility with young people setting up temporary skate ramps at the local netball courts.

The proposed skatepark will replace the old asphalt netball courts with a new multi-use recreation space – delivering a dedicated, safe space for local skateboarders, scooter riders and roller-bladers to practice, set-up development programs and competitions at the popular local reserve.

The project will create construction jobs, while creating thousands of participation hours a year for the Emerald community.

The *Victorian Budget 2022/23* is providing \$88 million to deliver new and improved community sports infrastructure and programs to boost participation in local sports clubs and organisations.

This includes continuing our flagship *Local Sports Infrastructure Fund*, game-changing *Female Friendly Facilities Fund* and the popular *Country Football and Netball Program*.

This brings the Labor Government's investment into community sport and active recreation infrastructure to over \$1.2 billion since 2014.

For more information about infrastructure grant opportunities available through the Victorian Government visit sport.vic.gov.au

Quotes attributable to Member for Monbulk James Merlino

"We've listened to the Emerald community– and we're delivering the brand-new skate park people told us they wanted to get more active and social."

Quotes attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"We're proud to be making sport and recreation more accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all Victorians with new facilities right across the state."