

Wednesday, 15 April, 2009

## **DAYLESFORD EVENTS PRECINCT TO RECEIVE UPGRADE**

Victoria Park Events Precinct in Daylesford will be able to attract new events, more visitors and generate more regional income thanks to a \$127,050 Brumby Government grant.

Regional and Rural Development Minister Jacinta Allan said the Victoria Park Events Precinct project includes lighting upgrades, sun shading, a relocation of cricket practice facilities, improved electricity capacity and supply and replacement of the ticket box and the roof of the agricultural pavilion.

“The Brumby Government is taking action to ensure regional communities across Victoria continue to grow and develop,” Ms Allan said.

“Victoria Park is the largest and most central reserve for Hepburn Shire and the broader region and is a focal point for sport and events.

“These improvements will help Victoria Park become a major event destination for regional Victoria.

“Three of the top 10 events in the Shire are held at Victoria Park and the largest of these events attracts about 15,000 people over four days.”

Ms Allan said the upgrade would provide a permanent facility for events and boost the regional economy.

“This project is important for the region which is feeling the impact of drought both in the country and in town.

“Agriculture is one of the region’s biggest industries, and the impact of the drought on farmers has flowed down the line to other businesses throughout the Shire.

“As Australia’s spa capital, Hepburn Shire is accustomed to above-average rainfall but water restrictions as a result of the drought have also taken their toll on tourism.”

Ms Allan said funding would be provided as part of the Brumby Government’s *Small Towns Drought Program*.

“The *Small Towns Drought Program* is part of the *Small Towns Development Fund*, helping Victoria’s smaller towns create jobs, drive economic growth and improve community infrastructure.”