



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Saturday 22 October 2011

### ALBURY COMMUNITY HONOUR LAUREN JACKSON

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, will join Greg Aplin MP, Member for Albury, Albury Mayor Alice Glachan, CEO of Basketball Australia Larry Sengstock and Australia's most successful female basket baller, Lauren Jackson, at the official opening of the Sports Centre named in her honour this morning.

"It's a fitting tribute to Lauren and I congratulate the Council and the people of Albury for taking the initiative to honour their home grown star by renaming the sports centre the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre," Mr Annesley said.

Lauren Jackson is considered to be the best female basketballer Australia has ever produced and is currently rated the best female basketball player in the world.

Born in Albury, Lauren began her professional career at the Australian Institute of Sport, in the WNBL, before moving to the Canberra Capitals. A lucrative international career beckoned with the Seattle Storm securing her services.

Lauren has won national championships in the USA, Australia, and Russia, and recently announced a return to the Australian women's basketball league signing a three season five year contract with the Canberra Capitals

Mr Aplin said, "Lauren Jackson is an inspirational athlete and Albury is proud to call her one of our own.

"I am absolutely delighted at the naming of the Lauren Jackson Sports Centre and I look forward to seeing many local athletes continue to display their passion and talent on these courts," Mr Aplin stated.

Mr Annesley added, "Lauren's remarkable sporting career includes multiple Olympic Medals, World Championship and Commonwealth Gold medals, and the rare feat of being a member of championship winning teams on three continents.

"Lauren Jackson has etched her name in the sporting history books as one of greatest modern athletes of her era and continues to be an outstanding ambassador for both women's basketball and Australia, and it is a privilege to acknowledge her achievements," Mr Annesley said.

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