



# The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# NEW ERA BEGINS FOR ILLAWARRA VENUES

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said legislation passed by Parliament today to establish Venues NSW will position the Illawarra to take advantage of any new opportunities in sport and entertainment for the benefit of respective local communities and the State's economy.

"Having one authority replace three separate authorities will deliver more efficient services to the community and provide better value for public investment.

"Venues NSW will also be in a better position to take advantage of economies of scale to ensure each venue is more financially viable to deliver on behalf of local communities.

"Community involvement will be a key focus of Venues NSW, with a Local Venues Council being established in the Illawarra.

"The Chair of the Illawarra Local Venues Council will also be appointed to the Board of Venues NSW," Mr Annesley said.

Lee Evans MP, Member for Heathcote, said, "I will make it a priority for the people of the Illawarra that they continue to have a voice in the running of their sporting and entertainment facilities, and that Venues NSW meets local community needs.

"Local Venues Councils will provide important feedback and advice about the future use of venues, strategies relating to regional tourism and events, sport and recreation development, and participation," Mr Evans said.

Mr Annesley added, "Under the new arrangements we are seeking qualified and genuinely interested people to achieve the best possible outcomes for the Illawarra and NSW as a whole.

"I look forward to the important community input of the Local Venues Councils and working with the Board of Venues NSW to assist in helping make NSW number one again," Mr Annesley said.

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