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Eden Park embraces support to deliver multiple World Cup events in three years

With Eden Park set to host three World Cup events in the next three years, the stadium is embracing Government's funding announcement today for sport recovery. Sport and Recreation Minister Grant Robertson has confirmed that \$7.3 million is being committed to enhance the country's facilities for the upcoming hosting of world cups.

New Zealand's national stadium says this support will aid in the delivery of the 2021 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, Rugby World Cup 2021 and the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023.

"Eden Park welcomes today's announcement from Minister Robertson and looks forward to creating a genuine legacy from hosting three World Cup events in the next three years. These events at New Zealand's national stadium offer a platform to demonstrate a commitment to equality in sport. It's our aim to ensure that all athletes are provided with world-class changing rooms and feel comfortable in all aspects of the stadium's design, including gender appropriate facilities," says Eden Park Chief Executive Officer Nick Sautner.

"It is envisioned that the stadium's South and West Stand facilities will be upgraded in line with the renovation seen ahead of Eden Park hosting the Rugby World Cup 2011. A steering group has been formed which includes Eden Park, Sport New Zealand, athlete representatives and all sporting codes who utilise New Zealand's national stadium. We'd like to extend our thanks to New Zealand Rugby for their support and involvement during this process. Eden Park is committed to becoming an industry leader through creating versatile facilities that will attract further women's fixtures and bring people together to support all sport."

Key to the successful delivery of these events will be implementation of event specific upgrades including stadium field lighting, gender appropriate changing room renovations, bilingual signage installation, elevator and CCTV upgrades, installation of a replay screens, turnstile replacement, acoustic barrier installation and exploring the creation of an external footbridge connecting to Kingsland Train Station to Eden Park.

"We look forward to working with all stakeholders including Government, ATEED and the wider Auckland Council family to ensure that Eden Park's facilities remain world-class to deliver three successful World Cup tournaments in three years," says Sautner.

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MEDIA RELEASE

About Eden Park

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally iconic arena, located in central Auckland. With 117 years of history, the Park has hosted some of the world's most memorable sporting moments from cricket, to rugby, to rugby league and football. A range of other community initiatives and events are also hosted throughout the year.

Eden Park Trust operates as a statutory not-for-profit body corporate, registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. Its objectives are to promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high-quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Auckland region.

Its rich history and profile is unmatched by any other stadium in the country. From its beginnings as a cricket ground in 1903, Eden Park became the primary venue for major summer and winter sport in Auckland when in 1913, the owner, Auckland Cricket, leased winter use of the ground to Auckland Rugby.

A Deed of Trust establishing Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as the beneficial owners of Eden Park was signed in 1926 and has since been enshrined in legislation. Most notably remembered for hosting the 1987 and 2011 Rugby World Cup Finals, Eden Park remains the home of both Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as it has been for more than a century.

Each year, more than half a million sports and entertainment fans from around the world visit Eden Park. The stadium successfully hosts sell-out crowds of up to 50,000 on match days and hosts more than 1,000 non-match day functions per year.