



**Stuart Ayres**

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism  
and Western Sydney

**Natalie Ward**

Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AFL'S BIG FREEZE COMING TO SYDNEY THIS QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY**

The NSW Government is partnering with the AFL to host the blockbuster Queen's Birthday clash between Collingwood and Melbourne at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The significant match will be played in COVID-safe conditions at the SCG on Monday 14 June, while the incredibly popular Big Freeze fundraising platform for Motor Neurone Disease will also take on a distinct Sydney style.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said Sydney would be a perfect backdrop for this important AFL fixture.

"The NSW Government is excited to partner with the AFL to host the Queen's Birthday clash at the SCG so the game can go on and Sydney can shine as part of this prominent football moment," Mr Ayres said.

"For AFL fans visiting Sydney, or for Sydneysiders who are sports and events enthusiasts, this is the perfect excuse to spend a long weekend enjoying and exploring our city as it is buzzing with energy.

"There will be so much to do in Sydney over the long weekend – from the big game to Sydney Solstice events, the offerings of our cultural institutions and our city's world-class hospitality, there's truly something for everyone."

Minister for Sport Natalie Ward said the SCG has a proud history of hosting fixtures which bring sports fans together for an important cause.

"The SCG is an historic and much-loved sporting venue, and tens of thousands of spectators will thrive on the emotion and adrenaline that comes with a contest between two fierce rivals.

"We have demonstrated our ability to deliver COVID-safe major events in Sydney, and we look forward to welcoming AFL fans to the Harbour City to enjoy a long weekend of football and festivities."

AFL Chief Executive Officer Gillon McLachlan said it was great to be able to take a marquee match of the AFL the fixture to NSW.

“Queen’s Birthday Monday on the AFL fixture has quickly become one of the competition’s marquee matches, with big crowds and a big broadcast audience, and we are excited to be able take the game to the SCG this year,” Mr McLachlan said.

“This is a great opportunity for not only the AFL to showcase a marquee game in the Sydney market, but for the FightMND organisation to further shine a light on the inspirational Neale Daniher and his fight against motor neurone disease.”

The game and activation are being delivered by the AFL in partnership with the NSW Government, through Destination NSW and Venues NSW.

Fundraising activity for the Big Freeze – driving awareness and collecting funds for the FightMND charity - will take place at an iconic Sydney location, with details to be unveiled during the week.

Tickets for the Collingwood versus Melbourne game at the SCG will be available soon. For more information about what’s on in Sydney, visit [www.sydney.com](http://www.sydney.com).

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