



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW WORLD-CLASS ATHLETICS TRACK FOR SYDNEY

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today officially opened a new world-class athletics track at E.S. Marks Athletics Field, part of Centennial Parklands, delivering on the NSW Government's \$1 million commitment to restore the track.

Ms Parker was joined by Sport and Recreation Minister Graham Annesley, triple-Olympian Melinda Gainsford-Taylor and Athletics NSW CEO Greg Meagher.

"The NSW Government's investment in this important project will increase the opportunity for the community, schools and elite athletes to train and compete on this world-class running track," Ms Parker said.

"Centennial Parklands is one of NSW's most important community sports and recreation destinations and over 50,000 people are expected to use the track each year."

Mr Annesley said the track is now at international competition standard and will help to promote a new generation of NSW athletes.

"This investment demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to supporting health, fitness and grass-roots community sporting opportunities," Mr Annesley said.

Originally constructed in 1906, the E.S. Marks Athletics Field was known in the mid-twentieth century as the home of athletics in Sydney.

Originally named the Sydney Athletics Field, the facility was renamed in honour Ernest Samuel Marks, whose obituary in 1947 read: "[he] probably did more for amateur sport in Australia than any other man".

About Centennial Parklands

- Centennial Parklands is one of Australia's most popularly visited public destinations with an estimated 34 million visits in the last 12 months.
- Over 360 hectares, and less than 10 minutes from the Sydney CBD, the Parklands incorporate Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park.
- The Parklands is a major sporting facility for the community with over 550,000 registered sports participants using the Parklands every year.
- Centennial Parklands is the birthplace of modern Australia - the site of the inauguration of Federation of Australia on 1 January 1901.

Media: John McCormack 0467 731 806 (Environment Minister)
Bernard Bratusa 0420 581 225 (Sport and Recreation Minister)