



# Media release

**From the Minister for Major Projects**

## **PREFERRED BUILDER ANNOUNCED FOR NEW MARKETS PROJECT**

**Friday, 02 October 2009**

Bovis Lend Lease is the preferred builder for the design and construction of the new wholesale fruit, vegetable and flower market in Epping, Major Projects Minister Tim Pallas announced today.

Mr Pallas said the bidding process had clearly demonstrated the confidence of the construction industry in the new market project.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action now to invest in vital infrastructure that is creating a significant boost for the local economy as we continue to build for Victoria's future," Mr Pallas said.

"This is yet another important milestone in the delivery of what will be an outstanding facility at the 130-acre site in Epping."

"The new Melbourne Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Market will ensure the ongoing viability of the market, which is crucial to sustaining Victoria's \$11.8 billion agricultural sector."

"This Government is committed to supporting the wholesale market as an essential link in the distribution chain, a vital part of the Victoria's infrastructure with an annual turnover of more than \$1.6 billion."

Mr Pallas said the new market would offer vastly superior facilities and logistical arrangements for wholesalers and retailers.

"On a busy day up to 4000 wholesalers, growers and retailers use the current market supplying thousands of Melbourne and local grocers throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria," he said.

"This new market project will be a great boost for the market community and all those who benefit from the Melbourne Wholesale Market."

During construction it is estimated that around 600 jobs will be generated and \$870 million injected into the local economy.

The new relocated market, situated just off the Hume Highway, will deliver:

- An efficient, competitive and accessible market;
- A vastly improved occupational health and safety environment for market users; and
- Significant growth opportunities for Melbourne's north through the expansion of warehousing and distribution.

Following contractual close, the builder is expected to start works by the end of 2009.

