



**Jon Stanhope MLA**  
**CHIEF MINISTER**

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT    MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS    MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE  
MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CANBERRA WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR A-LEAGUE TEAM**

Football fans in the ACT will have to wait to get a local A-League team, after the Football Federation of Australia today announced that the next A-League team would be based in Western Sydney, rather than Canberra.

Acting Sports Minister Jon Stanhope said the announcement would deeply disappoint many thousands of soccer players and fans in the ACT and he congratulated the A-League4Canberra consortium, led by Mr Ivan Slavich, for running a hard race and fighting hard to have the next A-League team based in the nation's capital.

The community-based campaign attracted more than 2000 individual foundation members, as well as some of Canberra's most prominent and proud businesses as foundation corporate members.

"I think Canberra made a good case to be considered as the base for the A-League's next new team, and it is of course deeply disappointing and somewhat frustrating that the FFA, which acknowledged the strength of our application, has chosen Western Sydney instead as home base for the League's 12<sup>th</sup> team," Mr Stanhope said.

"However, the Government welcomes indications from the FFA today that it is keen to maintain an ongoing relationship with Canberra and our region.

"I also feel certain that our bid for an A-League team has elevated the profile of elite-level football in our city, and inspired countless young and not-so-young Canberrans to participate in the game — as players and spectators."

Statement Ends

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