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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New winter sports training venue under design

Beijing Winter Olympics teams have arrived home with their medal haul. Meanwhile, a potential new indoor training venue on home ground could be ready in time for the 2026 Games.

Three architects will submit entries this month [February] to an invitation-only design competition for Winter Sports World, a \$300 million development at Penrith, at the foothills of the Blue Mountains NSW.

As well as Australia's first indoor snow resort and alpine attraction, it could also be its newest elite training venue.

Winter Sports World site owner and developer Peter Magnisalis said the venue would not be affected by climate change uncertainty like outdoor facilities, despite its location in one of the hottest places on Earth.

“We will have perfect snow under perfect skies all year round. Winter Sports World will be the coolest place to hang out on those scorching forty-degree summer days in Penrith.”

Having a local training venue could help increase the medal haul in Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy.

“Rather than spending months overseas away from their support networks, athletes can stay in Australia for longer in the lead up to international events like the Olympics.”

Located just 9km from the new international airport at Badgerys Creek, Winter Sports World will be accessible from anywhere in the world.

Mr Magnisalis has been working with the NSW Government architect and Penrith City Council on a design brief since October.

The design competition winner will be announced at the end of March.

Using real snow, the \$300 million development will include:

- A 300m advanced run for experienced athletes and learn-to-ski run
- Venue for figure, ice hockey, speed skating and alpine skiing
- Ice rink and ice climbing for mountaineer training
- 4.5-star 162-room hotel, restaurant and cafes

The carbon-neutral design by renowned eco-friendly architecture practice Environa Studio will set new environmental building benchmarks with features such as technology for capturing and reuse of free heat, roof solar system for electrical energy needs, insulation systems, non-toxic cooling and roof water harvesting for snow making.

The development will incorporate renewable and recycled materials and include electric car charging points.

Mr Magnisalis has long been in talks with international sporting groups interested in using Winter Sports World as an elite training venue for nine Olympic sports (alpine skiing, freestyle skiing, snow board, figure skating, ice hockey, speed skating, curling and possibly cross country and biathlon).

“I don’t think it’s a big stretch of the imagination to think that Winter Olympic stars of the future will be training at Winter Sports World,” Mr Magnisalis said.

A state significant development application is expected to be lodged with NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment by mid-year.

Construction will hopefully commence next year, with Winter Sports World expected to open in 2025.

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Editor’s notes:

- Click HERE for high res images of Winter Sports World:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3fkjhpkc1ypezs/AABo321wtu8dJlFrHhYDxcAla?dl=0>.
Photos: David Hill, Deep Hill Media
- Click HERE for a vision video:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3lw06mzox4a8opk/AACoU0qwD5Rgokai55rV1okra?dl=0>
- Winter Sports World website: www.wintersportsworld.com.au
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