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# Brattan opens up about Cahill

Melbourne City midfielder Luke Brattan is confident star man Tim Cahill's departure won't affect the side's fortunes. Cahill and City parted ways on Wednesday morning, with the club refusing to speak to media in the aftermath.



**B**rattan was the first City representative to speak to media when he fronted on Thursday afternoon at an appearance. "I found out the morning everyone else did," Brattan said. "We came into training, Timmy sat the boys down and had a word to us about it. "The reaction has been positive. He's a massive player, he's a massive part of our change-rooms." He said himself he doesn't want to be a distraction. It's all focus on Sunday."

**City coach Warren Joyce** didn't speak on Wednesday, but will front up for his weekly pre-game press conference on Friday. Joyce had only used Cahill as a bit-part player this season, but is the club's biggest name, so the City boss will be asked questions about his reasons for not using the Socceroo as much as the player desired.

**Brattan insisted Cahill's departure** will not affect the side, given the 38-year-old has barely been used this season. "Tim has been away a lot and we dealt with that pretty well," Brattan said. "We won the first four and he was away for a couple of them. "We're focusing on the players we have and the game on the weekend. "We've got enough firepower up front to do a lot of damage."

## Second division in Australia set for 2019

The Association of Australian Football Clubs (AAFC) has set the target of 2019 for a second division below the A-League, called 'The Championship'.

The AAFC proposed the division be aligned with the A-League in 2019/20 with the intention of promotion/relegation in the future.

The target for pro/rel is for five years later, so for the 2024/25 A-League season.

An AAFC statement read: "Participating clubs will be required to have a boutique stadium with capacity for 3,000 people as well as a capacity to meet an annual budget of \$2.5 million, which includes an annual license fee of \$150,000.

"The AAFC places a heavy emphasis on promoting young, local talent with at least half of the 20-person squad to be aged 25 or under, and a maximum of two visa players drawn from either the Asian or Oceania football confederations.

"AAFC also intends seeking agreement from the AFC for the winner of The Championship to be granted a place in the Asian Champions League."

Chairman Rabieh Krayem said that the AAFC believes a national second division is necessary for three reasons.

"First, we need it from a football perspective. The best way to improve the quality of football and our international competitiveness is to give young players more, and higher standard, game time.

"Second, as a football nation, we're not fulfilling the membership requirements of either FIFA or the Asian Football Confederation by not having promotion and relegation in place. A national second division is a pre-requisite of that.

"Third, we believe it's necessary to have this extra level of national competition in place to help bring life back into the football 'market', increase interest and attract investment," Krayem said.

