

# Tim Cahill's extraordinary achievement

Ahead of a potential fourth World Cup appearance, Tim Cahill has been honoured by the naming rights partner of the Caltex Soccerroos.

CAHILLTEX insignia along with Cahill and fellow Soccerroos' images will be displayed at five Caltex sites across Australia throughout May and June. Cahill was included in Caltex Soccerroos head coach Bert van Marwijk 26-player squad that will take part in a training camp in Turkey, followed by a friendly against the

Czech Republic in Austria on June 1. The striker has scored at three successive World Cups and if selected as part of the 23-player squad on June 4, could potentially join Uwe Seeler and Miroslav Klose as the only players to have scored at four tournaments in a row. Speaking at the



CAHILLTEX unveiling at North Ryde Caltex, FFA CEO David Gallop lauded Cahill's feats when representing Australia on the world stage. "Tim Cahill is on the cusp of making it to his fourth

World Cup, it's an extraordinary achievement," he said. "His track record at scoring goals in crunch moments for us is unparalleled and it's great that he can be part of this

promotion. "It's a reminder that we are two petrol tanks away from going to Russia and seeing how the boys go in a tough group and one that they'll be well prepared for.

"Promotions like this are a reminder that going to a World Cup is not just big for football fans but big for the whole nation. "To be going to a fourth consecutive one is a massive achievement."

## SOCEROOS 'Where are the goals going to come from?'

The only A-League player to score at a World Cup has questioned how Bert van Marwijk's hand-picked Soccerroos squad will score at Russia 2018.

**All White** Shane Smeltz gave New Zealand a 1-0 lead against Italy in South Africa in 2010 before the Azzurri levelled the score by full-time.

**During** a long and distinguished A-League career, he rattled home 92 goals in 190 games for four different A-League clubs during stints with Wellington Phoenix, Gold Coast United, Perth Glory and Sydney FC.

**But in** the wake of Jamie Maclaren's exclusion from the 26-strong squad for the Soccerroos training camp in Turkey, the celebrated hitman is struggling to see how Australia will get on the scoresheet in Russia.

**"I question** exactly where the goals are going to come," Smeltz told the large crowd – which included FFA chief executive David Gallop – at the Optus launch of their World Cup coverage.

**"It's up** for someone to stand up - maybe it's Arzani coming off the bench and producing? But you know, that's my one question mark."

**German-born Smeltz** tips a potential Germany victory in the World Cup Final – but he's not writing off Australia's chances completely.

**The Soccerroos** face France, Denmark and



Peru in Group C and Smeltz admits the French are clear favourites to top the group... but he can see the Soccerroos picking up points against Peru.

**The Kiwis** met the South Americans in their World Cup play-offs, and Smeltz saw weaknesses the Australians can exploit.

**"I think** France are going to go through," he added. "But I think it's pretty open after that.

**"New Zealand** had to play Peru and they obviously overcame us. We did well against them at home but they were very good in

their backyard.

**"I'm not** sure they travel too well. I think Australia will have a really good chance of getting some points against them in Russia... and they're going to have to!

**"The first** game is against France and you always want to start the tournament well – so I think they have to look at the other two games to pick up some points.

**"The only** question is – and this might be a little bit negative – but I question where exactly the goals are going to come from?"

**Smeltz joins** a star-studded cast of analysts

for Optus's World Cup squad, featuring former international players with more than 650 caps between them.

**Joining Aussie** presenters Mel McLaughlin and Rich Bayliss will be Smeltz, Tony Popovic, Paul Okon, Tony Vidmar, John Aloisi, Luke Wilkshire, Alex Wilkinson, Brett Emerton, Sasa Ognjenovski and Amy Harrison.

**Optus will** be broadcasting every game of the tournament live and today launched their new app for non-Optus customers to access the service on a variety of digital platforms for \$14.99 a month.