



Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

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Mr Gerry McNally
Committee Secretary
The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
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THE SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL REFERENCES COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S PREPAREDNESS TO HOST THE COMMONWEALTH, OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES.

Dear Mr McNally

Thank you for your email of 3 April 2023 regarding the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Australia's Preparedness to host the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games, and for your similar correspondence to the CEOs of the Office of the Commonwealth Games and the Victoria 2026 Organising Committee. I am responding on our collective behalf.

As the Victorian Government has announced, regional Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games (the Games), with the Games to generate a broad range of economic, cultural and legacy opportunities for regional communities.

The sporting program for the Games has been agreed between the State of Victoria, the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Games Australia. The program will feature 20 sports across 26 disciplines, including nine fully integrated para-sports.

In a Commonwealth Games first, Victoria 2026 will introduce a multi-city delivery model. Victoria 2026 will be the biggest sporting event ever held in regional Victoria, with Games events and activations in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Gippsland and Shepparton. There will also be opportunities for regions outside these cities to host cultural events including supporting the Baton Relay as it travels to the Opening Ceremony.

With more than 1 million tickets to go on sale, modelling carried out for the Commonwealth Games Organising Committee estimates the Games will attract around 300,000 visitors from outside the host cities, including more than 100,000 visitors each in Geelong and Ballarat, 50,000 in Bendigo and 25,000 in Gippsland.

The influx of visitors will provide a boost to local hotels, restaurants, cafes and retailers, with the Games expected to contribute more than \$3 billion to Victoria's economy, and creating more than 7,500 jobs before, during and after the Games.

Since planning for the Games commenced, the Victorian Government has been regularly communicating with the community – including members of the public, businesses and

industry and community groups – to provide updates on progress, and preparedness to host the Games.

The Victorian Government also provides regular media releases on progress and milestones both achieved and upcoming. In addition, regular updates on the state's progress in planning for and delivering the Games are emailed to registered recipients via www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games-get-involved.

Given this level of existing engagement and communication about progress toward the Victoria 2026 Games, the Victorian Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (the Department) will not be providing a more detailed submission to the Inquiry at this time.

Yours sincerely

Tim Ada
Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Date: 16/5/2023

cc: Mr Allen Garner, CEO, Office of the Commonwealth Games
Mr Jeroen Weimar, CEO, Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee