



Media release

Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid

Games failures let down Victorians: report

An 18-month Victorian parliamentary inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid has tabled its third and final report.

The Legislative Council Select Committee makes 62 findings and six recommendations.

The Committee concludes the Victorian Government's decision to withdraw from hosting the event in regional Victoria was a direct result of a series of failures during the bid and project approval stages.

It finds proper processes were truncated or not undertaken at all and the multi-city model was overly ambitious and not feasible in the timeframe. There's also no evidence the government investigated an alternative Melbourne-based option.

"Victorians, especially regional Victorians, were let down by a string of decision-making failures by the Victorian Government, as well as inadequate due diligence and planning processes at both the departmental and ministerial level," Committee Chair David Limbrick said.

"To put it simply, the high cost and inability to host the Games as proposed should have been discovered far earlier by the Victorian Government."

The Committee agrees with the Victorian Auditor-General the \$6.9 billion cost estimate used to justify the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games was overblown and not transparent, but ultimately the decision made in July 2023 was the right one.

There are further findings on the \$2 billion regional funding package, and the impediments the Committee experienced when seeking evidence from the Victorian Government during the inquiry.

"Key witnesses, including the former Premier and relevant Ministers, declined to appear at public hearings," Mr Limbrick said.

"Requests for relevant documentation were met with broad claims of executive privilege. The government refused to follow the process set out in the Legislative Council's Standing Orders for assessing claims of executive privilege."

The Committee received 44 written submissions and gathered evidence from 87 witnesses at 47 sessions across 12 days of public hearings.

This included travelling to Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Traralgon to hear from the people and communities most affected by the decision to withdraw from hosting the Games.

"I want to sincerely thank all those who made submissions and provided evidence at public hearings," Mr Limbrick said.

[Read the full report](#) and all other inquiry related information on the Committee's website.

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