

# **Victorian Government Response to the Final Report of the Legislative Council Select Committee into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid**

**October 2025**

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## Introduction

The Victorian Government acknowledges the work of the Legislative Council Select Committee (the Committee) in delivering the interim and final reports, including the 62 findings and 6 recommendations in the final report on the Inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid (the Inquiry). The Victorian Government also acknowledges the time taken by community members to make a submission or appear at the Inquiry hearings to share their experience.

The Government's response addresses each recommendation in the Final Report, identifying current government initiatives aimed at addressing these, as well as future priorities and actions that will respond to the Inquiry's recommendations.

This response was prepared in consultation between the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Treasury and Finance.

## Context

As stated at the time of the cancellation announcement on 18 July 2023, and as the Committee's report confirms the Government's decision to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games was the right decision, at the right time.

The Victorian Government did not commit to delivering the Games at any cost.

In making the decision to withdraw from hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games, the risks and costs were confined and enabled funding to be directed toward delivering the legacy benefits through direct investment.

The Government is on track to deliver its original \$2 billion commitment through investments that help people live closer to where they work, help communities build the projects that matter to them, attract more visitors, and help local businesses to grow.

Through the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program (RSIP), 16 new or upgraded sports venues will be delivered.

This investment is creating jobs for locals and opportunities to grow local businesses; while making sure more fans, grassroots participants and elite athletes can all enjoy the sports they enjoy closer to home.

Earlier this year, the first of these projects was completed with new facilities unveiled at the Shepparton BMX Club in time for the city to host 2025 AusCycling BMX Racing National Series, bringing thousands of competitors and fans to Shepparton, boosting local jobs, businesses and the visitor economy.

There are RSIP projects being delivered right across the state with those under construction now including the Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre at Torquay, the Ballarat Major Events Precinct, Armstrong Creek Sports Centre, Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Park and Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe.

For many Victorians, sport is a part of their community, and these projects, as well as others like the Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program, Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, the Regional All Abilities Participation Grants program and the Significant Sporting Events Program are creating a lasting legacy.

Ongoing investment in the visitor economy saw visitors spend a record \$43 billion in the year ending June 2025. To ensure Victoria keeps its reputation, a raft of tourism programs are being funded. The Regional Tourism Investment Fund is supporting operators like Sovereign Hill, to build more accommodation options.

In East Gippsland, the Snowy River Yacht Accommodation and Charter project will deliver a luxury three-cabin sailing yacht for overnight and day trips on the estuary.

There will also be 5 new mountain bike trails built at Mt Buller and Alpine Resorts Victoria will deliver nearly 10km of new single-track mountain bike trails improving connectivity through the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling trail network.

With record migration to the regions, the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund (the Fund) is ensuring rural and regional communities have the skills, workforce and infrastructure needed to thrive.

More than 40 projects are being supported by the Fund, unlocking around \$370 million in new housing investment for thousands of regional workers.

The Government is committed to make sure regional Victoria thrives into the future, including investing in the small projects that make a big difference to local communities.

Victoria continues to be the sport and major events capital of Australia and continues to deliver economic growth to the state. Victoria's major events calendar is valued at \$3.3 billion per annum and the state continues to support our athletes, sporting events and world-class infrastructure.

## Response to recommendations

| Recommendation |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Government Position  | Government Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1              | Subject to the learnings from the Commonwealth Games withdrawal, the Victorian Government should continue to pursue events that are of benefit to Victoria                                                                                                                            | Support              | The Victorian Government is continuing to secure events for Victoria through the Major Events Fund, the Regional Events Fund and the Significant Sporting Events Program. This includes NFL and NBA matches, Lenny Kravitz in Mildura and the 2027 Rugby World Cup.                                     |
| 2              | The Department of Treasury and Finance amends the <i>Investment lifecycle and high value high risk guidelines</i> to require business cases for all projects estimated over \$250 million to be assessed as high value high risk, regardless of what type of funding is sought        | Support in Principle | As part of the regular cycle of guideline review, DTF will review the <i>Investment lifecycle and high value high risk guidelines</i> to indicate how the guidelines and assurance processes apply to major projects where the state is a key investor but does not own or is not delivering the asset. |
| 3              | The Committee recommends that, in consultation with the Auditor-General, a review of the implementation of the high value high risk guidelines be undertaken to ensure that learnings can be incorporated to prevent further similar failures as occurred with the Commonwealth Games | Support in Principle | DTF consistently monitors the implementation of the <i>Investment lifecycle and high value high risk guidelines</i> to identify opportunities for improvement.<br><br>This includes consideration of any recommendations from VAGO's annual Major Project Performance Reporting review.                 |

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| Recommendation |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Government Position  | Government Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4              | The Department of Treasury and Finance should subsequently report annually on the success and implementation of high value high risk guidelines                                                                                                                                                                                              | Support in Principle | DTF will continue to report annually, through DTF's Annual Report and the <i>State Budget Department Performance Statement</i> , on measures to improve how the Government manages its balance sheet, commercial activities and public sector infrastructure. |
| 5              | The Legislative Council Procedure Committee should consider the process for assessing claims of executive privilege under Standing Orders 10.03 to 10.05, noting that to date the process of appointing a legal arbiter has never been used.                                                                                                 | Not applicable       | This recommendation is a matter for the Legislative Council Procedure Committee.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 6              | Given the failure of the key ministers and staff to appear before this Inquiry, the Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee should be referred an inquiry (or self-refer if necessary) for the purpose of holding public hearings with the relevant ministers and former ministers and report to the Legislative Assembly. | Not applicable       | This recommendation is a matter for the Legislative Assembly Economy and Infrastructure Committee.                                                                                                                                                            |