

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



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REGIONAL VICTORIA HOSTING 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Victoria has been confirmed as the host of the 2026 Commonwealth Games, with the state's regions set to shine on the world stage.

The announcement by the Commonwealth Games Federation comes after a period of exclusive negotiations, with Commonwealth Games Australia and the Andrews Labor Government last month submitting a delivery concept for consideration.

It is estimated the 2026 Commonwealth Games will contribute more than \$3 billion to Victoria's economy, creating more than 600 full-time equivalent jobs before the Games, 3,900 jobs during the Games and a further 3,000 jobs beyond the Closing Ceremony.

Victoria 2026 will be held across multiple regions, creating a new multi-city model for the Commonwealth Games.

Four regional hubs will be established in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, each with their own athletes' village and sport program. The regional hubs will host athletes, officials and fans following an Opening Ceremony at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground, using Melbourne as the gateway to regional Victoria.

Shepparton will also host sporting and cultural events as part of Victoria 2026. There will also be a strong para sport program, with six sports already locked in.

Further work is being done with the Commonwealth Games Federation and Commonwealth Games Australia to determine if additional sports will be included in the Victoria 2026 program, which may open opportunities for other locations to host events.

Victoria 2026 will also invest significantly in community infrastructure, including housing and world-class sports facilities. This will leave a legacy of affordable housing for the regions and modern sports infrastructure to encourage Victorians to get active and attract future major events.

Beyond the field of play, Victoria 2026 will feature a program of cultural and business engagement experiences that bring to life the Commonwealth Games values of humanity, equality and destiny – and embracing the state's diversity and rich cultural history.

A Victoria-wide program of live sites and activations will ensure visitors are welcomed in every corner of the state, with the Queen's Baton Relay to traverse the regions in the weeks leading up to the Opening Ceremony.

For more information, and to express interest in being involved, visit vic.gov.au/victoria2026.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"It's a great honour to have Victoria chosen as the host venue for the 2026 Commonwealth Games – we can't wait to welcome the world to all of our state."

"The Commonwealth Games in regional Victoria is great for jobs, hospitality and our economy."

Quote attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"Hosting the Commonwealth Games in four years' time will deliver major benefits, particularly the regions, and leave a lasting legacy for the growth and development of sport throughout Victoria."

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Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

“We’ve always known the value of regional Victoria and the 2026 Commonwealth Games will provide a chance to showcase all we have to offer to the world.”

Quote attributable to President, Commonwealth Games Federation Dame Louise Martin

“The Commonwealth Games Federation is absolutely delighted to award the 2026 Commonwealth Games to Victoria. Commonwealth Games Australia and the Victorian Government have set out a bold and innovative vision that provides an exciting new blueprint for hosting our major multi-sport event.”

Quote attributable to President, Commonwealth Games Australia Ben Houston

“Commonwealth Games Australia is thrilled to welcome the athletes of the Commonwealth back to Australia and we look forward to working with both the CGF and the Victorian Government to bring the Games to life across Victoria in 2026.”

Victoria 2026: Initial Sport Program

Sport	Proposed Location
Aquatics (Swimming, Para Swimming and Diving)	Geelong
Athletics and Para Athletics	Ballarat
Badminton	Gippsland
Beach Volleyball	Geelong
Boxing	Ballarat
Cricket T20	Geelong, Gippsland, Ballarat, Bendigo
Cycling	Gippsland to Bendigo
Gymnastics	Geelong
Hockey	Geelong
Lawn Bowls and Para Lawn Bowls	Bendigo
Netball	Bendigo
Rugby Sevens	Gippsland
Squash	Bendigo
Table Tennis and Para Table Tennis	Geelong
Triathlon and Para Triathlon	Geelong
Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting	Bendigo