



Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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BAC-CO-52018

Matt Newington
Committee Manager
Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid
By email to: secretariatcommonwealthgames@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Matt,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2024 regarding the inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games bid and request for data.


As part of the \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund (RHF) program, my department is progressing with the delivery of 1,300 new and upgraded social and affordable homes across regional and rural Victoria. This investment includes 128 social and affordable homes to be delivered in partnership with Development Victoria for two of the former Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village sites at Waurin Ponds and Bendigo.

The RHF aims to ensure a fair and reasonable distribution of housing across regional Victoria with distribution informed by Victorian Housing Register demand data and other housing indicators and demand modelling, as well as regional housing investment to date. Allocation of the RHF has also been guided by consultation with councils and local representatives, through the Regional Partnerships. These Regional Partnerships provided relevant local insights, which are informing program deliverables, including priority groups, priority housing types and locations.

As requested, attached to this letter are details of RHF funded dwellings by type of housing and regions, including investment in the former Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village sites. Given part of the program is still at planning and procurement stage, more projects and locations will be confirmed. Also, some of the currently confirmed locations may change after the procurement is completed to ensure a fair distribution of dwellings. The overall program will be delivered through a range of delivery approaches including new construction, upgrades to existing homes, purchasing, and partnerships with the community housing sector.

Please contact the Secretary's office if you have any questions in relation to the information in this letter.

Yours sincerely


Melanie Heenan
Acting Secretary

09/01/2025



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Inquiry into the 2026 Commonwealth Games bid: Regional Housing Fund data

- The \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund (RHF), announced on 25 October 2024, will deliver 1300 new and upgraded social and affordable homes across regional and rural Victoria.
- The RHF is planning to deliver 128 social and affordable homes in partnership with Development Victoria for two of the former Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village sites at Wearn Ponds and Bendigo:

Dwelling location/type	Dwelling numbers
Geelong – social housing	36
Geelong – affordable housing	36
Geelong – total proposed social and affordable housing	72
Bendigo – social housing	28
Bendigo – affordable housing	28
Bendigo – total proposed social and affordable housing	56
Total social and affordable housing	128

- In addition to the investment in the former Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village sites, the RHF targets include:
 - 130 new homes for First Nations Victorians.
 - 50 transitional homes all across Victoria for people experiencing homelessness.
 - Renewal of 75 Homes Victoria properties that are beyond their useful life, with target already exceeded.
 - Redevelopment of Homes Victoria properties, which are approaching end of their useful life to deliver a greater number of dwellings.
 - Up to 70 dwellings to support communities impacted by the 2022 floods in Shepparton, Seymour and Rochester.
 - About 50 public homes in Colac and 50 homes in Wodonga.
 - To date, over 400 site locations have been allocated with some redevelopments taking advantage of modern methods of construction.
 - Social Housing Growth Fund Affordable Housing Partnership Program to deliver up to 270 affordable housing dwellings.
 - Homes through homelessness rapid grant delivered in partnership with housing agencies. The number of dwellings will be confirmed after completion of project tender.
- As the planning and procurement are progressing for RHF, not all dwelling type and location can currently be confirmed.