



Media release

Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid

Interim report finds Games timeframe was too short

An inquiry into the handling of regional Victoria's abandoned 2026 Commonwealth Games has been hampered by a lack of access to key documents, an interim report tabled in the Legislative Council today has found.

The report notes the Committee has exhausted most avenues open to it in obtaining documents relevant to its inquiry, for which the Government has made a claim of executive privilege.

"The Government is accountable to the Parliament and, through the Parliament, to the people of Victoria. It should not set the conditions by which it is held to account," said Committee Chair David Limbrick.

For the matter to be progressed further a production of documents motion would need to be agreed upon by the House, according to the report.

The Legislative Council Select Committee of nine members, including three MPs each from the Government, Opposition and Crossbench is examining the July 2023 termination of the contract to hold the Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

This includes the progress of the regional infrastructure build including the potential failures in governance, the impacts of the contract termination on Victoria, the Victorian Government advice received, the potential of undue influence by the executive, the timeline, progress and budget of the Victorian Government's regional infrastructure and housing build and the impact on community, social, amateur, and professional sport in Victoria.

The Committee found the timeframe agreed upon between the Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Games Federation to negotiate the hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games was too short.

"It is possible that if the Government had taken the time to produce a more considered business case, it may not have gone ahead with its decision to host the Games in the first place. This would have prevented the loss of over half a billion taxpayer dollars," Mr Limbrick said.

The inquiry found that hosting the Commonwealth Games across multiple cities in regional areas had never been done before and led to significant operational cost increases.

It also found the business case underestimated the potential infrastructure costs due to a lack of time a lack of appropriately skilled labour in regional areas, inflation changing development models and constraints on labour and building materials as a result of large ongoing public sector infrastructure projects.

The Interim Report is an overview of the evidence received by the Committee so far. It makes 23 findings. The inquiry is still in progress, the Committee intends to hold further hearings and will make recommendations in its final report due by April 2025.

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