



Select Committee on the 2026 Commonwealth Games Bid

Hearing Date: 13 February 2024

Questions taken on notice

Directed to: Committee for Geelong, Michael Johnston

Received Date: 4 March 2024

1. **Joe McCRACKEN, page 19**

Question Asked:

So no lead-up time basically. Are you able to provide us, both of you, with a list of the dates and times of meetings that you had with the state government over the time of your involvement with the discussions around the Comm Games? Is that okay?

Michael JOHNSTON: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Jeremy CRAWFORD: Yes.

Response:

The below dates represent the full list of meetings I attended with State Government representatives regarding the Commonwealth Games (or am aware of prior to my commencement with the Committee for Geelong)

- **5pm, 23 November 2022- Jeroen Weimar (CEO, Victoria 2026 Organising Committee) presented to the Committee for Geelong membership at the Committee's 2022 Annual General Meeting**
- **4pm, 6 March 2023- Visit to Geelong by Commonwealth Games Australia leadership delegation.**
- **9am, 16 March 2023- Online briefing re- procurement with Jeroen Weimar.**
- **2.30pm, 22 March 2023- 1:1 meeting with Jeroen Weimar.**
- **11am, 28 March 2023- Geelong Regional Engagement Forum with Minister Harriet Shing, Charlie Spendlove (Chief Marketing, Communications and Media, Victoria 2026 Organising Committee), Allen Garner, (CEO, Office of the Commonwealth Games), Jeroen Weimar.**
- **12.30pm, 18 July 2023- Online briefing with Minister Jacinta Allan.**
- **2.15pm, 20 July 2023- Commonwealth Games Face to Face briefing with Minister Jacinta Allan.**
- **9.30am, 7 September 2023- Regional Package Forum with Minister Harriet Shing.**

2. **Michael GALEA, page 21-2**

Question Asked:

Not a deleterious impact on it – yes. And can you describe for me in broad terms the current trends of your visitor economy here in Geelong?

Michael JOHNSTON: I am probably not best placed to answer that with you now, our general membership growth. Essentially there would be, I think, with council and Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine some harder data. I do not know. Have you got anything, Jeremy?

Michael GALEA: Mr Crawford, do you have any?

Jeremy CRAWFORD: No. I do not have anything on hand, sorry, but we can take it on notice and perhaps provide some information when we come across it.

Response:

I did not have any information and believe Jeremy Crawford took this on notice. I would again refer you to Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine as the appropriate entity to provide this information.

3. Melina BATH, page 28-9

Question Asked:

Thank you, gentlemen, for being here today and providing us your feedback. You mentioned before – and it is your predecessors, so you may need to take this on notice – that your organisations had multiple interactions with ministers, and I think you offered to provide some time lines for us or meeting dates. Just putting that on record, if you could do that. I am interested to understand: pre the cancellation, on 18 July, at what point did you feel your organisations, your business communities, were really getting concerned that it would not be delivered? So when did you have concerns – your organisations – that this would not come to fruition? If you have got a date or a month.

Response:

I commenced with the Committee for Geelong on 13 February 2023. There was a general feeling in conversations I had with people around Geelong from my commencement, that there was a lot of work to be done in a short time period but it would get done because of the reputational risk to the Government if it was not delivered.

There were increasing comments being made from around April 2023 that there may be challenges with the Games model, with suggestions that some events may need to move to Melbourne.

I would not categorise any of the above as strong concerns the Games would not be delivered, but the longer the time went without visible progress, the tighter the deadline appeared to be.