



The Hon. Harriet Shing MLC
Minister for Commonwealth Games
Legacy

Commonwealth Games Legacy Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

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Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions

Commonwealth Games Legacy

- Honouring First Peoples
- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Cultural Program
 - Festival 2026
 - King's Baton Relay
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies
- Social Legacy and Community Engagement

Delivering a world-class, inclusive and unforgettable Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games will leave an enduring legacy of fit-for-purpose housing, community infrastructure, economic growth and job creation for local communities across regional Victoria.



Honouring First Peoples

Victoria 2026 will honour Victorian First Peoples, reflecting the Victorian Government's commitment to self-determination, working closely with First Peoples to drive action and improve outcomes.



- The Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework, Yuma Yirramboi, Self-determination Reform Framework and Treaty will inform this important work.
- **\$2.7million** over four years to support the Traditional Owner Corporations of the host communities.
- Working closely with TOCs from early in the infrastructure site selection, design and consultation process.
- **First Peoples Leadership Group** established.
- Supporting First Peoples business and TOCs.
- Celebrating First Peoples' cultures.
- Improve long-term social and economic outcomes for First Peoples.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Victoria 2026 will showcase and celebrate our State's diversity through a program of investments, championing inclusivity and accessibility across the sports program, infrastructure, events, services, procurement and employment opportunities.

- The Commonwealth Games are the only major-sporting event with an **integrated para program**.
- **Accessible and inclusive infrastructure** (venues, villages, transport, and digital).
- Opportunities through **social procurement**.
- Showcasing diversity and inclusion for long-term benefits.



Opening and Closing Ceremonies

An Expressions of Interest (EOI) was released on 18 May 2023, inviting organisations to register their interest in delivering world-class, inclusive and unforgettable Opening and Closing Ceremonies – showcasing the best of our local communities and regions.

Opening Ceremony

Melbourne Cricket Ground

- As we work towards a spectacular start to the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games, creative industries will be asked to take the Games' unique, multi-city model as an opportunity to showcase our regions on the world stage.
- The Opening Ceremony on 17 March 2026 at the world-famous Melbourne Cricket Ground – the biggest stadium in the Southern Hemisphere – will raise the curtain on the Games and set the tone for an exciting sports program to come.

Closing Ceremony

Kardinia Park

- An upgraded Kardinia Park in Geelong will host a blockbuster Closing Ceremony before tens of thousands of spectators on 29 March 2026.
- The Closing Ceremony will celebrate Victoria 2026 on the world stage and thank every athlete, official, volunteer, worker and spectator whose support made the biggest event ever held in regional Victoria possible.

Festival 2026 and King's Baton Relay

Victoria 2026 will celebrate regional Victorians on the world stage.

King's Baton Relay

The King's Baton Relay (KBR) is a unique opportunity to unite communities across the Commonwealth.

The Relay:

- Inspires future athletes, recognises community members' achievements, and builds excitement for the Games.
- Will have a strong First Peoples focus.
- Engages thousands of Baton bearers across 74 nations.
- Promotes the Victoria 2026 Games.

Festival 2026

Festival 2026 will activate games cities, celebrating First Peoples' culture and creative talent and showcasing regional Victoria's heritage, diversity and culture.

- Festival 2026 will be programmed across the state, with a focus on host cities.
- There will be large-scale festival sites, alongside galleries, theatres and other venues.
- Festival 2026 will prioritise local workforce skills, jobs and businesses.

Social Legacy and Community Engagement

Local communities are at the heart of delivering a meaningful and localised legacy for our regions.

Social Legacy

- Inclusive, accessible and fit-for-purpose housing.
- New and improved multi-purpose community infrastructure.
- The Games will contribute over \$3 billion to Victoria's economy, creating more than 7500 jobs before, during and after Victoria 2026.
- Boosting local economies, increasing accessibility, inclusion and participation.
- Continuing to progress economic and social interests of regional Victoria and First Peoples

Community Engagement

- The goods and services procurement pipeline worth \$800 million , featuring 1200 opportunities for local companies to win contracts.
- Regional Engagement Forums held across Victoria.
- Legacy workshops to be held in Games cities later in 2023.
- The 2024 Legacy and Benefits Plan will reflect our collaborative work with key stakeholders, local communities and organisations.
- Victoria 2026 Reconciliation Action Plan (or equivalent) will be developed.

