

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

RE: Saving the Commonwealth Games

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to seek your support in hosting a dual-city 2026 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast and Perth.

The Victorian Government's decision to cancel the 2026 Commonwealth Games was disappointing and a huge blow to Australia's reputation and to our athletes.

Australia is meant to be viewed as a successful G20 nation, and the fact that we can't organise and fund a Commonwealth Games undermines that reputation.

As you know, the history of the Commonwealth Games – which is made up of over 70 nations and territories – is a source of immense pride for many around the world. And an important opportunity to invite commonwealth heads to Australia.

Over the years, these Games have given rise to unforgettable sporting moments and are especially important to bring Para athletes to the global stage.

For countless hard-working athletes (and their families) the opportunity to represent their country in Australia at a global level stands as a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We believe that a coast-to-coast Games presents a special opportunity to showcase Australia and provides an excellent background for you to invite those heads of the Commonwealth you may wish to have further discussions with, and or entertain. A background where Australia pulls well above its weight, and shines!

Both the Gold Coast and Perth, with their world-class pre-existing facilities and warm hospitality, stand ready to play a role in delivering an unforgettable experience for athletes, spectators, international guests and media.

The recent world championships, and earlier Olympics, proved very popular with Australian audiences Australia-wide. Enthusiastic positive media was constant.

Embracing a multi-city strategy has proven to be effective to reduce costs and be available to more people across the country. FIFA has recently unveiled plans for the 2030 World Cup to be jointly hosted across Morocco, Portugal, and Spain.

The Commonwealth Games will inject capital into the national and local economies with improved infrastructure, increased tourism and much needed business flow on.

This ultimately leads to increased tax revenues, and a much needed boost in economic growth.

These events change cities – they make the people of the host city “walk tall,” and they ultimately leave a lasting legacy. Sports are renowned to be very unifying.

We envision a Games to not only put Australia on display, but to include live performances, concerts from Commonwealth stars, carnivals, street fairs, family friendly festivities and more, an across country popular endeavour, bringing people enthusiastically together.

The Gold Coast has extensive aquatic facilities that can host water and aquatic sports and Perth has a range of large sporting facilities, including world class rowing facilities, to bring this iconic sport back into the Commonwealth Games.

The 2026 Commonwealth Games also provide Australia with an opportunity to boost with real practice our preparedness for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games – the first Olympic Games Australia would have hosted in over 30 years. Not only our swimmers but our rowers will be in terrific form to make Aussie shine.

The Olympic Games still being some 9 years away, holding the Commonwealth Games here should not fairly be described as a distraction from such preparation, but a real live run through for the Olympics.

Hosting the Games will foster enthusiasm, very important after the Victorian Government's unpopular decision, and given that many are suffering as the economy declines and inflation rises, further increasing the cost of living.

Both Mayors would be happy to serve on the Organising Committee to bring these games to life and encourage the business community to be involved. If the Prime Minister would like, Mrs Rinehart could also arrange a suitable participant.

In relation to the cost of the Commonwealth Games, we believe that a Games can be delivered better using existing facilities, in contrast to the expense of the Victorian Governments plans.

We note the comments of the Commonwealth Games Australia Chief Executive Officer, Craig Phillips AM in July when he said “the stated costs overrun, in our opinion, are a gross exaggeration.”

We believe that saving the Commonwealth Games via a dual-city approach would be popular and in the national interest, and would not only bring huge benefits to our athletes and cities, but also excitement and lasting advantages to our nation.

We also believe it would be a far more popular decision than the recently announced \$600 million for a Papua New Guinea NRL team, and not as expensive. Perhaps some of that expenditure could be

redirected to improve Australian facilities for the Commonwealth Games, with later benefit for the Olympic Games in Queensland?

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mr Tom Tate
Mayor of the Gold Coast

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mr Basil Zempilas
Lord Mayor of the City of Perth

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Mrs Gina Rinehart AO
Patron of Swimming, Rowing, Volleyball and Artistic Swimming
Executive Chairman of Hancock Prospecting, Roy Hill and S. Kidman & Co

CC:

The Hon Anika Wells MP, Federal Minister for Sport
The Hon Roger Cook MP, Premier of Western Australia
The Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland
The Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Queensland Minister for Sport
The Hon David Templeman MP, WA Minister for Sport
Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, Federal Shadow Minister for Sport
Ms Josephine Sukkar AM, Chair of the Australian Sports Commission
Mr Peter James Rundle MP, WA Shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation
Mr Tim Mander MP, Queensland Shadow Minister for Sport and Racing
Mr Ben Houston, President of Commonwealth Games Australia