

**MM15/23 HOSTING OF 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES - Mayor,
Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM****File Number:** MYR/07/10/20 - BP23/438

Like most Australians, I was shocked by the news that the Andrews Labor Government in Victoria has announced it will not be hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games, having previously bid successfully for the right to host the games.

This decision will impact Australia's reputation on the international stage and is a symptom of poor management by the Victorian Government.

I move the recommendation below as a means of providing support for the athletes who have trained to take part in the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- (a) Condemns the Andrews Labor Government in Victoria for unceremoniously cancelling the 2026 Commonwealth Games;
- (b) Encourages the Minns Labor Government in NSW to urgently consider bidding for the 2026 Commonwealth Games;
- (c) Notes that Sydney Olympic Park was purpose built to host the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, and remains a major sporting and events precinct, earmarked by the NSW Minister for Planning the Hon. Paul Scully MP for further activation;
- (d) Notes that Ryde is home to its very own Sydney 2000 Olympic sporting venue, with our very own Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre playing host to a series of water polo matches during the best Olympic Games ever;
- (e) Writes to the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns MP; the Minister for Jobs and Tourism, the Hon. John Graham MLC; the Minister for Sport the Hon. Steve Kamper MP, the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP; the Shadow Minister for Tourism, Mr Gurmesh Singh MP; and the Shadow Minister for Sport, Ms Eleni Petinos MP, encouraging them to consider the bid, and the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre as a suitable venue to host the 'Commonwealth Water Polo Championships, which have been held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games since 2002, in Manchester; and
- (f) Subject to a favourable response from the NSW State Government, staff prepare a report outlining any necessary works required to ensure the Centre promotes Ryde in the best possible light on the international stage, which incorporates a joint-funding strategy with the NSW Government for any identified upgrades or improvements.

Council, submitted on 25 July 2023.

MM15/23 (continued)

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

Councillor Sarkis Yedelian OAM
Mayor