

Proposed 2026 Commonwealth Games

Budget matters

- You are being asked to approve a project costing billions of dollars, based on a pitch document that as of Friday had no budget attached.
- What we have heard through “grapevine” is a budget of \$1.1 billion including \$250 million of non-government Games revenue.
- These projections are fanciful and cannot be met: they exceed all previous revenues which were for larger and more expensive Games.
- CG budgets **always** climb steeply from initial approval to final account:
 - Delhi 2010: \$360 million to \$5.5 billion: 1630% of original
 - Glasgow 2014: \$650 million to \$1.005 billion: 154% of original
 - Gold Coast 2018: \$1.06 billion to \$1.79 billion: 168% of original

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- Previous Commonwealth Games non-government revenues were earned in an age before COVID destroyed the world travel industry and when TV revenues for amateur sport were comparatively higher:
 - Delhi 2010 non-government revenue: \$50 million
 - Glasgow 2014 non-government revenue: \$197 million
 - Gold Coast 2018 non-government revenue: \$209 million
 - Each Games projected higher non-gov revenue during budgeting.

Security

- Much of these “Games” expenses are spending on police, not on infrastructure. Security expenditure for Glasgow 2014 was \$157 million (a 333% rise on the initial budget!) and Gold Coast 2018 \$167 million.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR GAMES!