

MEDIA RELEASE

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Commonwealth Games could deliver 300 new affordable homes in Bendigo

In the lead up to its Regional Affordable Housing Summit the Community Housing Industry Association Victoria is calling on the Victorian Government to ensure the 2026 Commonwealth Games athletes village in Bendigo leaves a lasting legacy and helps solve the region’s housing affordability crisis.

“The Victorian Government could build 300 homes that would create jobs in the short term, and help solve the housing affordability crisis in Bendigo longer term,” said Jess Pomeroy, Acting CEO, Community Housing Industry Association Victoria.

“This is an opportunity to transform the supply of affordable housing for low-income and key workers and support employment in Bendigo. It’s a win-win.

“The Games present a unique opportunity for the Victorian Government to trial a new housing model. CHIA Victoria is proposing a mixed tenure model to be released immediately following the Commonwealth Games. We want to see 30 percent social housing, 10 percent affordable housing, 10 percent market rentals and the remaining sold as homes for market sale.

“Affordability is a challenge across the housing system, for those struggling to keep a roof over their head to young people trying to buy their first home. This model delivers housing for all income levels and ensures it remains accessible for low income and key worker professionals.

The Commonwealth Games legacy should leave housing which reflects the communities in which it is built in and which addresses housing needs across the spectrum. It shouldn’t deliver cookie cutter housing or create future concentrations of disadvantage, and the risk of designing athletes villages without a view of their future use is that this is exactly what will happen.

“Developments of this nature would get widespread support from local businesses, builders and Industry organisations because they create jobs and housing for local workers.

“The State Government has committed to building an athlete’s village in a central location in each region where the Games are being held. We’re calling on the state government to use this opportunity to deliver housing which supports the long-term prosperity and growth of Regional Victoria.

“The Victorian Government must invest in housing developments to host Commonwealth Games athletes in the short term, which transition to diverse housing which meets the needs of Bendigo residents after the Games,” said Jess Pomeroy.

Media notes:

- Vacancy rates for rental housing in Bendigo are at 1.2%, and in 2022 the Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot found a total of 3 homes available for rent that were affordable to households living on a pension or other Centrelink income support.
- There are over 7,000 families waiting for social housing in the Loddon region more broadly, and affordable housing is becoming increasingly difficult to find. The Commonwealth Games housing should be a big part of increasing the supply of housing for Bendigo residents.

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CHIA Victoria’s State Election Platform

[Beyond-the-Big-Housing-Build-CHIA-Vic-State-election-platform-2022-.pdf](#)
(chiavic.com.au)