

How the Commonwealth Games can benefit Horsham

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has launched 'The Winning Formula for Regional Victoria', a document outlining the priorities to ensure a lasting legacy is created for the whole of regional Victoria as part of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The document aims to ensure all regional cities realise the long-term infrastructure benefits of hosting an international sporting tournament.

It is particularly relevant for Horsham – which will not host any competitions as part of the Games.

Ballarat, Geelong, Shepparton, Bendigo and the Gippsland region are the five regional hubs that will see a flurry of activity in the lead up and during the two weeks of competition in March 2026.

Horsham Rural City Council Mayor Robyn Gulline, at last week's launch of the document at Dudley Cornell Park, said the Games were a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all Victorian regional cities to create a lasting legacy.

"Community sport and emerging athletes should have proper sporting infrastructure in their regions to foster their talent and becoming sporting stars of the future," she said.

HRCC is seeking \$2 million from the Victorian Government as a Commonwealth Games legacy.

"We would use this funding for

developing and enhancing local sporting facilities," Cr Gulline said.

"Council is currently redeveloping the facilities at Horsham City Oval and is seeking government support to develop a modern pavilion with a multi-purpose community space and compliant change rooms."

"We are also completing a feasibility study into multi-sports facilities which will deliver a plan to upgrade local venues, particularly for our sports that will feature in the Commonwealth Games," she said.

While Horsham missed out on hosting competitions in 2026, it stands to benefit from by-products of the event, including increased tourism and the pre-Games opportunity to host training and practice events.

"Tourism is vital for our regional economies. Each region is unique and has its offering, so the job is to ensure we promote what we offer, including bushwalking, rock climbing, water sports, art, and cultural activities.

"Our region boasts 86 per cent of Victoria's culturally significant rock art and hosts the northern trailhead of the Grampians Peaks Rail," Cr Gulline said.

Regional Cities Victoria comprises the 10 largest regional cities in Victoria – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.



FUTURE BENEFIT: Joel Plazzer, Sophie Quick, Ella Vanduren and Paul Barnett (back) and Hannah Plazzer and Mayor Robyn Gulline (front) at Dudley Cornell Park last week. Representatives from Horsham's little athletics, volleyball and soccer clubs joined Cr Gulline to call on the Victorian Government to invest in local infrastructure to ensure the 2026 Games bring a lasting legacy of improved sports facilities for our future stars.

Nature Stewards Program now open

Are you interested in rocks, soil, fungi, plants, and animals? Do you want to learn about climate change and seasons? Or ways to care for country and manage private property?

A subsidised course for nature lovers in the Horsham region is now taking registrations.

Nature Stewards is a program that connects people with their local environment, teaches them practical skills and introduces them to like-minded individuals.

There are six classes and four field sessions to be held from July 22 to August 26.

Experts such as ecologists, volcanologists, climate scientists, traditional owners and landcarers will be part of the program.

It's a great way to gain knowledge, learn practical skills and meet like-minded others in the local community.

Participants will discover ways to help nature at home and through volunteering.

Open to everyone over the age of 18 and hosted at Horsham Neighbourhood House, the course is \$250 for people over the age of 30, \$125 for under 30s, and \$65 for full-time students and concession card holders.

Applications close July 9. For further information and to apply head to vnpa.org.au/naturestewards.

HORSHAM WINTER23 PROGRAM

Connect with nature, meet other like-minded people, and discover ways to help in your local area.

July 22nd - August 26th
Horsham Neighbourhood House + surrounds
\$250 full fee, \$65 Concession
Half price for under 30's



APPLY NOW
NATURESTEWARDS.ORG.AU

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TENDERS AND RFQ

Q58/2023
AUDIT OF ACCESSIBLE CAR PARKING SPACES
Closes 5pm, Monday 19 June

23-041
PROVISION OF ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES, HORSHAM AQUATIC CENTRE HYDROTHERAPY FACILITIES
Closes 12noon, Thursday 29 June

All tender, EOI and RFQ details at hrcc.vic.gov.au



Next Council Meeting: Monday 26 June 2023 - 5.30pm

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