



18 January 2018

Mrs Louise Martin CBE
President
Commonwealth Games Federation
Commonwealth House
55-58 Pall Mall
LONDON SW1Y 5JH
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Louise,

On behalf of Commonwealth Games Australia (CGAus) I extend my congratulations to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) on concluding the appointment of Birmingham as the host city for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The challenge of replacing Durban as host was a significant and complex undertaking. It is of great credit to the CGF that it was able to bring about such a successful outcome.

While we are yet to be formally advised of the sports and disciplines to be included on the Birmingham 2022 program, it is noted that the sport of Shooting has been omitted.

On 2 January, I received a letter from Catherine Fettell, President of Shooting Australia raising concerns about Shooting's omission and seeking CGAus's support in making representation to the CGF in this regard. I believe you received a copy of Ms Fettell's letter.

CGAus acknowledges that, as per the CGF Constitution, Shooting is an optional sport. Notwithstanding, CGAus requests that the decision to omit Shooting from Birmingham 2022 be reconsidered as a matter of urgency.

In support of this request, I note the following:

- i) Shooting has been included on every Commonwealth Games program since 1966 with the exception of Edinburgh 1970 – it has become a mainstay of the Commonwealth Games sports program;
- ii) In Glasgow in 2014, 352 athletes (227 men and 125 women) from 40 nations/territories were represented in Shooting – it is anticipated a similar number of athletes will compete in Shooting at Gold Coast 2018;
- iii) In Glasgow, there were 8 CGAs where Shooting athletes represented 25% of more of their total delegation. They are: Bangladesh (27%), Falkland Islands (42%), Gibraltar (30%), Isle of Man (25%), Maldives (*no longer a Commonwealth nation*)(25%), Norfolk Island (29%), Niue (27%), and Saint Helena (50%). The omission of Shooting will have a significant impact on the participation of these CGAs and threaten the CGF's strong stance of universality of representation from across the Commonwealth;
- iv) Recent developments have seen the Commonwealth Games Movement become more inclusive. An increased para sport program and gender equality in the number of medal events are just two recent examples of where this inclusiveness is most evident. The CGF should be justifiable proud of these developments. An added element of previous Games which



is not always recognised or celebrated is the role of Shooting in providing competition opportunities for athletes of all ages. Shooting, like no other sport, provides for the participation of more mature athletes. To remain truly inclusive, the CGF needs to embrace the unique opportunity presented by Shooting in showing Commonwealth Games participation is not solely the domain of young athletes; and

- v) The Commonwealth Games program is a showcase of sports which require athletes to have different skills and attributes. The power of the weightlifters and powerlifters, the grace and dexterity of the gymnasts, and the endurance of the marathoners, cyclists and triathletes are just a small number of examples. With the omission of Shooting from the program there will be no sport which provides the ultimate test of precision and concentration.

Louise, CGAus strongly supports the inclusion of Shooting on the Birmingham 2022 program and urges that its omission be reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

SAM COFFA AM JP

cc:

Catherine Fettell – President, Shooting Australia
Martin Mace – Secretary, Commonwealth Shooting Federation
Franz Schreiber – Secretary General, International Shooting Sport Federation
Ian Metcalfe – President, Commonwealth Games England