

Melbourne 'should bid' for 2032 Olympics

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Lord Mayor Robert Doyle has backed a push for Melbourne to bid for the 2032 Olympic Games, saying tickets sales would "go through the roof".

But first he said it was vital that the public got behind the campaign, or the attempt would fail.

"I'm absolutely confident it's feasible to do. I'm absolutely confident it will be a roaring success," Cr Doyle said.

"But the public have to be right behind it in order for the bid to succeed. And that's what the international delegates look for."

The mayor's comments come after Kate Roffey from the Committee for Melbourne said she had already discussed a possible Olympics bid with Major Events Minister John Eren.

Ms Roffey said Melbourne was ideally placed to hold the games and should begin planning now.

An Olympics bid can cost up to \$50 million and Melbourne has some strong competition from Brisbane as the next Australian city to host an Olympics.

Brisbane has already decided to undertake a feasibility study for a possible 2028 bid.

The call for a new Melbourne's Olympics bid comes as International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach prepares to visit Canberra next month and meet with Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Mr Bach is expected to encourage the Abbott Government so support an Australian Olympics bid.

Ms Roffey said 2032 would be the earliest Melbourne could bid for the Olympics.

"You need 10 or 11 years out to put your bid on the table formally and you would need to have your bid ready to go in 2020," she said.

The Committee for Melbourne is a business lobby group. *The Age* is a member.

Ms Roffey said it made sense for Melbourne to host the Olympics.

"We have so much of the infrastructure in terms of the facilities here already," she said.

"More importantly we have the appetite for it. We are one of the few cities in the world where as soon as you mention it people in Melbourne go, 'yes, of course we should'. Everybody else says it is a waste of money and we shouldn't be doing it," she said.

"We could do it and we want to do it," Ms Roffey said.

Cr Doyle estimates an Olympic bid would cost \$20 to \$30 million and said he was confident Melbourne's sporting facilities would be up to the task.

"There is no city in Australia that could better host the Olympics than Melbourne," Cr Doyle said.

Asked about the possibility of Victoria bidding for the Olympics, Mr Eren, said "all opportunities are reviewed on their merits"

This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/melbourne-should-bid-for-2032-olympics-20150310-140c5k.html>