

## **GOLD COAST TO HOST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING TITLES**

Some of the world's best weightlifters will be competing on the Gold Coast following confirmation Australia will host the 2017 Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships.

The event will be held at Carrara Stadium, the weightlifting venue for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Australian Weightlifting Federation CEO, Michael Keelan, said it is a great coup for Australia.

"Several cities throughout the Commonwealth were bidding for the right to host the 2017 championships," he said.

"For the Gold Coast to be given the nod is a great vote of confidence, not only in where our sport is heading in Australia, but also our ability to stage big events.

"And what a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase what our sport has to offer, six months out from the biggest sporting event to ever be held on the Gold Coast."

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation Congress awarded the rights to Australia at a meeting held on the eve of this year's championships in Pune, India.

Australia has a full-strength men's team competing at the championships, including Commonwealth Games medalists Damon Kelly and Francois Etoundi.

Kelly, a veteran of three Commonwealth Games and a 2010 gold medalist, has said the lure of competing in front of his home crowd may convince him to keep lifting.

He'll be 34 at the time of the Gold Coast games.