

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and Referral to the Community Affairs Committee

 **Hon. PG REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport) (7.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Community Affairs Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce into the parliament today the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill 2011. This bill will ensure our state maintains its reputation as an international sporting hub, capable of holding world-class events. The Bligh government has made certain that bureaucracy and red tape do not get in the way of what many Queenslanders are calling for—home finals for the Brisbane Broncos. It has now been more than 10 years since Lang Park underwent significant transformation into what we now know as Suncorp Stadium. The redevelopment project was a major priority of this Labor government and was based on providing Queensland with an international standard stadium to rival venues in Australia. This remains a priority for us today.

In 2001, the government proposed there would be no more than 24 major sporting events a year which attracted more than 25,000 spectators. Known as development condition 42, this cap was voluntarily imposed by the government at a time when the Brisbane Broncos were the only major team playing home games at Suncorp. To date, this has been a fair and workable agreement that all parties have honoured. However, a lot has changed. In just the last 10 years, an additional 600,000 people have called South-East Queensland home, the Queensland Reds have moved from Ballymore to Suncorp Stadium, and the commencement of the A League has seen an increase in the number of soccer—or football—games held at Suncorp. Ten years ago, it was not possible to predict that the Brisbane Roar would host the A League grand final and be crowned champions, the Queensland Reds would host the Super Rugby grand final and win, we would hold major international soccer—or football—and rugby union matches and we would farewell one of our true sporting icons, Darren Lockyer, all in the same calendar year.

It comes as no surprise, then, that so many people have been flocking to Suncorp Stadium this year—already more than 885,000 in fact. So far in 2011 there have been nine events which have attracted crowds in excess of 35,000 people. Queenslanders enjoy watching live events. We enjoy being part of something bigger and cheering on our sporting heroes, and this opportunity should not be taken away from anyone if it can be prevented.

If we did not introduce this bill and the crowd size limit at Suncorp Stadium remained, it is likely that attendances at high-profile events in 2011, such as soccer internationals and possible Brisbane Broncos finals games, may have to be capped to less than half the stadium, meaning tens of thousands of Queenslanders would miss out on witnessing Darren Lockyer's final matches with the Broncos; the NRL and Football Federation Australia may relocate matches to their opponents' venues in Sydney and Melbourne; Queensland's reputation for hosting major sporting events would be damaged and this would result in a loss of economic benefits for Brisbane and the Queensland economy; and the stadium would be underutilised, which would undermine the government's investment in the stadium.

Our success on the field is something we should celebrate, not something we should be punished for. Just because we are successful and invest more in sport and recreation than any other state or territory does not mean the most significant and attractive events on our sporting calendar should be fenced off to only a certain lucky few or cancelled. The simple fact is that this year has been an extraordinary year with brilliant performances from many Brisbane based teams and a more than usual number of world-class sporting events. For this reason, the bill provides arrangements to ensure games can continue to be played at Suncorp Stadium for the remainder of the year. This bill provides a head of power for a regulation to be made establishing a new limit on crowd sizes for the future. This regulation will be enacted as soon as practical if the bill is passed. This will prove beneficial should all Brisbane based sporting clubs be extraordinarily successful again, and will provide for Queensland's growing population and the popularity of these events.


We have also consulted the local community to gauge their feedback and to listen to their opinions and concerns. On top of this, we have also had discussions with stakeholders in the area including the PCYC and key response groups including: Stadium Management Advisory Committee, Brisbane Broncos, Queensland Rugby Union, Brisbane Roar, Queensland Ambulance Service, Suncorp Stadium and Stadiums Queensland. Taking this into account, we have decided not to increase the number of events. Instead, we will lift the cap on the number of people, increasing it to a maximum of 35,000 spectators at 24 events. There is not a significant difference in the impacts on the local community between a 25,000-person crowd and a 35,000-person crowd, but the wider positive impacts that these big-ticket events will have for Queensland as a whole are huge.

The Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2002 limits the number of concerts per year at Suncorp Stadium to three. The regulation will be amended to increase this limit to four. The people of Queensland want this and it is not our role to take it away from them.

In closing, 2011 has been an extraordinary year for Queensland in many ways. Even Suncorp Stadium could not escape the ferocity and reach of Queensland's natural disasters earlier this year. Many of us saw the humbling pictures of it inundated by water. But, like the people it now seats, it showed a fighting spirit and determination to come out on top.

Capping the number of spectators in the stadium does not make sense in financial terms or for the community at large. The stadium is a symbol of our strong and resilient spirit and should be available to all. With the Broncos so high on the NRL ladder and assured of at least one home finals match, it is imperative we prevent these matches from heading down south. The Broncos have done their bit; now it is time for the Queensland parliament to do its bit. The NRL finals begin on 9 September and, therefore, it is urgent that this bill be debated in the next sitting week to ensure the Broncos have certainty that they are playing at home. I commend the bill to the House.

~~First Reading~~

~~ **Hon. PG REEVES** (Mansfield ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport) (7.42 pm): I move—~~

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put— That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Bill read a first time.~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Wendt): Order! In accordance with standing order 131 the bill is now referred to the Community Affairs Committee.~~

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~~FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction and Referral to Community Affairs Committee~~

~~**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (7.42 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Adoption Act 2009, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Child Protection Act 1999 and the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Community Affairs Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* Family Responsibilities Commission and Other Acts Amendment Bill.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* Family Responsibilities Commission and Other Acts Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008, the FRC Act, to ensure that the Cape York Welfare reform trial, the trial, and the operations of the Family Responsibilities Commission, the FRC, are extended by 12 months.~~

~~The bill also makes technical and consequential amendments to the FRC Act relating to the Australian government's changes to the organisational status of Centrelink that were effective from 1 July 2011. In addition, the bill makes technical amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999 to complete the provisions relating to the making of a temporary custody order and the rights, powers and obligations conferred by the order.~~

~~The bill also includes amendments to the Adoption Act 2009 and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 to allow for the registration of intercountry adoptions that are assessed in Queensland but where the final adoption order is issued overseas. Registering the adoption will enable all children adopted from overseas, under the Adoption Act 2009, to access Queensland birth certificates for the purpose of identification.~~

~~The trial commenced in July 2008 under a tripartite agreement between the Australian government, the Queensland government and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. The trial aims to build stronger and more resilient communities, re-establish local Indigenous authority, enable children to achieve their full potential, support engagement in the real economy, and encourage individuals and families from social housing to homeownership. The trial operates in Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge with the support of local stakeholders.~~

~~The FRC is an integral component of the trial. The FRC Act, which established the FRC as a statutory body, is legislated to expire on 1 January 2012 and the FRC is due to cease operations on 31 December 2011. The FRC operates to restore local Indigenous authority and build stronger and resilient communities through attaching behavioural obligations to the receipt of welfare payments. The FRC~~