


COMMONWEALTH GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Introduction and Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

 **Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Reconstruction) (4.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and for related purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Commonwealth Games Arrangements Bill.

Tabled paper: Commonwealth Games Arrangements Bill, explanatory notes.

Winning the rights to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games was a major coup for the Gold Coast and Queensland. It is important that we follow up this success with the best games possible. There is a lot to be done in the lead up to 2018 and we need to start planning and organising the games now. The Commonwealth Games Arrangements Bill 2011 will create a statutory corporation, the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, to plan, organise and deliver the games. The bill includes: the powers and functions of the corporation; the establishment of a board of members and their duties; appointment of the chief executive officer and other staff; appointment of committees; financial arrangements; and winding up of the corporation. A board comprising of at least eight members will be appointed to oversee the corporation.

It is vital that we have a board that has a mix of skills and experience relevant to the staging of international sporting events and includes key stakeholders such as the Australian Commonwealth Games Association and the Gold Coast City Council. I will announce membership of the board following passage of the bill and after consultation with the Commonwealth Games Association and the Gold Coast City Council.

To keep politics out of the day-to-day running of the games, the bill provides that parliamentarians and local government councillors will be precluded from appointment to the board. The corporation will not represent the state. It will have a sufficient level of autonomy to undertake its day-to-day activities.


The bill makes it clear that proper financial management of the games is critical. Strict accounting procedures will be adopted, with the corporation being subject to the Financial Accountability Act 2009 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982. The corporation will be required to submit a budget each financial year for approval by myself and the Treasurer, enter into an annual funding agreement with my department outlining how funding will be expended and complete an annual report. The corporation will have the ability to establish committees to provide it with expert advice relating to organising the games. The act will commence on 1 January 2012.

The bill is modelled on the legislation enacted for the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. In the lead-up to the Sydney and Melbourne games, a number of pieces of legislation were enacted dealing with policy issues as they arose. This will also be the case in Queensland I anticipate that further legislation will be required on matters such as construction and development of facilities, marketing, intellectual property and security arrangements.

In addition to the corporation, I will establish an Office of Games Coordination within my department to work with the corporation to deliver the games. The office will be responsible for coordinating government involvement in the games, as it is important to maintain a central agency focus across departments involved in this process.

These games will bring world attention to not only the Gold Coast, but also Queensland and Australia. It is our time to shine and we must do that as well as we possibly can. The bill provides a strong governance framework for this to occur. I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading

 **Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Reconstruction) (4.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Wendt): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.