

6 November, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I write to provide a **submission regarding the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill.**

As a resident of an area near 'The Gabba' I suggest that the organising committee must include members from the communities likely to be most affected by this project.

In particular, this will allow consideration of East Brisbane Primary School (EBSS); which must be kept to maintain sufficient access to education for the local community. The school is already negatively impacted by the commercial interests of the Gabba stadium. Education must be prioritised over short-term commercial interests. By bringing the Olympic games to Brisbane, presumably the Queensland government believes in the social benefits of sport, though the specifics of this have not been made clear. Clearly, sport is vital for children, as it encourages a healthy lifestyle, and the development of social, mental and physical skills. Currently, children in the East Brisbane/Woolloongabba area have adequate facilities to play sport, via EBSS and Raymond Park. To diminish these spaces via Olympic-related developments seems a self-defeating process. The organising committee must include expertise that reflects and accounts for local issues such as this.

In order to reflect our society as one of democracy and equality, the organising committee must also include representatives from the First Nations communities on whose stolen land the 'Games' will be held.

The organising committee must also include appropriately qualified representatives from the LGBTIQ+ community to allow appropriate consideration of the gendered construction of the Games, which is organised along a questionable male/female binary.

In a time of climate change, the organising committee must also ensure it addresses the climate impact of the games, including the building of infrastructure as well as the carbon-footprint produced by the transportation of those attending. The infrastructure of the Games presents an opportunity to expand low-carbon forms of transport, such as cycling. Currently, cycling is poorly served in much of Brisbane by an adhoc accumulation of poorly-planned bicycle lanes that abruptly end, and a lack of driver education regarding the rights of cyclists. As such, the committee must include members with proven expertise in this regard, to ensure the Games is an opportunity for forward-thinking climate-aware development and infrastructure.

Despite its alleged political impartiality, the history of the Olympic games and the IOC is filled with racism, sexism, violence, commercial interests and the displacement of the poor. This is not conjecture but historically verified fact, evident in numerous critical and academic histories of the Olympic Games and the IOC.

The organising committee must include members who have the expertise and authority to ensure that when the Olympic and Paralympic games are held in Brisbane they reflect the values of our democratic society and resolutely reject racism, imperialism and sexism, and instead promote equality and equal access to education, housing and green space. There must be conditions in the bill that ensure the organising committee will appropriately consider and reflect these values.

This includes ensuring that all members of the committee are subject to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and that Commonwealth Parliamentarians are **not** excluded from this (which, they are in the current draft). This caveat undermines the integrity of the committee, process and bill.

Sincerely,



Kyle Weise

Mailing Address: [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]