

7th November 2021

My name is Melissa Occhipinti, and I am a local Kangaroo Point resident, and highly concerned about some aspects of the legislation that will set up the 'Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games'. Specifically, my key concerns are:

- The committee lacks local representation. It's important that a local representative be appointed to the committee, specifically, someone with no affiliation to any political party and can represent the local residents and to be their voice.
- The legislation will exempt the committee from right to information requests. This is extremely concerning, as the community have no guarantee of transparency and we have no avenue to request this information. We've already seen this lack of transparency, with Raymond park being nominated as the warm up track however, there is no space for a full size warm up track to be built without the destruction of the park, all of its facilities, old fig trees, and resumption of houses. However, when asked the question on resumptions, all responses have come back that there will be no resumption of houses, however, this isn't possible if there's a requirement to build a full size track. There has been no community consultation prior to announcing the location of Raymond Park, and should the legislation be passed, the removal of the local residents' ability to request plans for the park under the right to information act, leaves the residents anxious and distressed, especially for some residents who have lived on or around the park for over 70 years. What guarantee will the Government provide to ensure transparency of the plans and their impact to local residents?
- Concerned that the State will need to pick up the bill for any overspend, especially when seemingly expensive decisions are being made, such as destroying and rebuilding the Gabba for \$1billion and the takeover of vital green space in Kangaroo Point, to build a temporary warm up track in Raymond Park, instead of building this at a location that will benefit the community beyond the games. What guarantee do the taxpayers have that the event will be delivered within budget and not left with an expensive hangover after the games?

As an additional comment, we would like to bring the parliament's attention to the local community petition (which currently has over 1250 signatures) against building the warmup track at Raymond Park, and the consideration of the warmup track to be built at Coorparoo Secondary College (Giffin Park precinct). Link to the petition: <https://chng.it/jsx5H82qwR> (see page 2)

Best wishes



Melissa Occhipinti

████████████████████

████████████████

Petition: <https://chng.it/jsx5H82qwR>

Save Kangaroo Point Green space from becoming an Olympic Training Ground and Proposal of Coorparoo's Giffin Park Precinct instead

Kangaroo Point is growing rapidly and the increase in population and high-density living design in our inner suburbs, has elevated the need to access green space. Raymond (Pineapple) Park is a crucial green space and vital to the mental health and wellbeing of the local Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba community. It is effectively our backyard.

The Park is a multifunctional green space used by residents for:

- Running, walking and general exercise including personal / group training sessions and gym equipment
- Off leash dog park,
- Collaboration through the upkeep of the community gardens,
- Home of the Kangaroo Point Rovers Soccer club
- Basketball, cricket, and use of the skateboard facilities,
- Children's parties at the playground – there are parties/ gatherings every weekend,
- BBQ's – in fact a second pergola was recently built to accommodate the increasing use of this area.

The importance of this green space was highlighted during and now post COVID, where we've seen an increase in the use of the park and its facilities by the local community. Inner city green space is rare, and vital to the liveability and mental health of local residents. As highlighted in newscientist.com "we've seen an explosion of research finding concrete links between increased exposure to nature and not just improved physical health, but better mental health, too". <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg24933270-800-green-spaces-arent-just-for-nature-they-boost-our-mental-health-too/#ixzz79b2AOKbK>

Many of the local residents have chosen to live in Kangaroo Point specifically for the access to the park and all of its facilities, as well as its proximity to the city, with many walking or riding into work, rather than driving.

The Queensland Government has proposed for Raymond Park to be replaced with an Olympic warm-up field, thereby destroying the backyard of many Kangaroo Point Residents: See: <https://kangaropointnews.com.au/raymond-park-upgrades-as-brisbane-prepares-to-be-olympic-ready/>

Decision makers have currently got the balance right in the park with a mix of community sport, open space, family recreation and bbq facilities . The proposed changes will disrupt this balance and reduce the usability and ability to meet the needs of the local community who are "connected" to the park.

In addition to the loss of our green space, construction of an Olympic sized training ground, will inevitably result in the resumption of properties that back on to the park, as they cannot fit this size field into the current green space.

RECOMMENDATION - This petition is supporting the redirection of funds to the Coorparoo Giffin Park precinct to construct the Olympic training ground.

This solution is still very central to The Gabba, being only 2.1kms away and just a 4-minute drive, as opposed to a two-minute drive from Raymond Park to The Gabba.

The benefits of utilising Giffin Park Precinct for the Olympic training ground are vast, and will result in a positive outcome for the local community which include:

- It will be built where the facilities are needed and will be utilised by the local community.
- It will be upgrading current sporting grounds as opposed to taking over current limited local green space.
- It will benefit local schools and sporting clubs including Coorparoo Secondary College, Churchie, Coorparoo AFL Club and overflow for White's Hill Touch association.
- It will give the local children a unique, deep and meaningful access to athletics and the Olympics.
- It will assist Government with the promise in the budget to deliver 6 synthetic sporting fields and by combining the budgets, will maximise the tax payers investment in a precinct in dire need for upgraded facilities.
- It will provide an economic return for the precinct when they rent out the facilities for both the Olympic event and potentially other events that can be held in the dedicated sporting precinct.
- Being in the Coorparoo precinct and connected with the local schools and sporting clubs, we will be investing in a facility that will inspire and encourage the development of our 12-15 year old athletes, who are our target group for the Olympics.
- Save tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars in the cost of resumption of property along Raymond park and direct these funds back into the Coorparoo precinct