

*Submission to Economics and Governance Committee Inquiry
Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021*

To Economics and Governance Committee

Via email: Committee Secretary <egc@parliament.qld.gov.au>

7 November 2021

To whom it may concern,

RE: Submission to Inquiry on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021.

I live in Kangaroo Point. My boyfriend and I are renters, and I am concerned over the impacts of Games that have a reputation for driving up rents, negatively impacting homeless communities, leaving behind empty and disused facilities, secret reports and providing property developers with runaway financial gain with little to show as long term legacy, planning, and community benefit.

My concerns are as follows:

1. Unnecessary development the Gabba
 - a. If the Gabba does not need redevelopment, this shouldn't happen. Upgrades in line with community safety and sustainable long term use.
 - b. Any development of the Gabba must be focused on delivering to the community first. Any considerations of the Olympics should not be the priority. The Olympics will come and go, and any plans for the Olympics should be changed to fit into a community first strategy, and not the other way around.
 - c. Any reports, including recommendations, proposals, and case studies, and drafts, updates and final reports regarding the development of the Gabba, should be made available to the public as and when those reports are written.
 - d. The Gabba should not be renamed. The name of the Gabba must be preserved, and naming rights must not be sold or otherwise given away.
 - e. The Gabba should not be torn down and rebuilt. This is unnecessary and a waste of public funds. The construction activity would make the stadium unavailable to the community for several months and have negative environmental impacts.
2. Decision making and transparency
 - a. Decisions making and reports should not be exempt from the Right to Information Act.
 - b. Decision making should be subject to a charter of principles that put the community and environment first. Decisions should clearly state how they comply with this charter.

*Jason Fernandez, Kangaroo Point
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- c. Any reports, including recommendations, proposals, and case studies, and drafts, updates and final reports regarding the development of the Gabba, should be made available to the public as and when those reports are written.
 - d. A test for whether decisions are in the best interest of the community should be made mandatory. Any decision making should be transparent, and should not be made or reversed if this test is not satisfied.
 - e. Any actions or decisions that are found to breach public trust, proper decision making process, or compliance requirements should be stopped and reversed.
 - f. No decisions should be made without all information being available to the community with a meaningful and significant
 - g. The community should be able to block decisions that favour profits of property developers over the community, have significant environmental impacts, eat into school premises, or unsatisfactorily ignores feedback. Information should be available for the community to have sufficient time to be able to consider issues meaningfully, engage with stakeholders, and block unwanted decisions.
 - h. Community feedback should be responded to and taken into account. Decision makers should demonstrate how they have incorporated community feedback into decisions.
 - i. Disclosures and announcements should be made regularly, and must not be timed so that they are released just before Christmas when people are focused on the holidays.
 - j. All information should be disclosed and made available and accessible on relevant websites, registers, and platforms.
 - k. A consolidated noticeboard should be created where information can easily be found.
 - l. Community enquiries on notice should be responded to in a meaningful period of time, if the information is not readily deliverable. If information is not readily deliverable, measures should be taken to make that information readily deliverable.
3. Membership of the Organising Committee and Board of Directors
- a. Committee membership should include local residents, school representatives, and community groups of areas that would be impacted, first nations groups, independent professionals such as urban planners and civil engineers, and members of bodies such as Local Government and schools that would inherit the stadiums, grounds, and other facilities after their use by the Olympics and paralympics.
 - b. People such as Gina Rinehart should not be able to buy a seat on these committees. They should be kept out by design.
 - c. No property developers or private entities that stand to make financial gain or have perceived conflict of interest should be voting members of the committees.
 - d. The chairs of these committees should provide briefings publicly at least weekly, and take questions from reporters and community groups.
4. Environmental Impacts

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- a. Impacts to the environment should be minimised. An environmental impact plan should be released as soon as possible, with a deadline as early as 1 March 2022.
- b. The games should be moved away from the city, where new facilities need to be built.
- c. Public transport and mass transit options should be the first options for transport of all persons.
- d. Trees should not be cut down. Any designs and plans should be changed to have minimum impact to the environment.
5. Impacts on Homeless and Transient communities
 - a. As one article puts it "*Olympic host cities have historically cleared away and marginalized their homeless in advance of the games.*" This should not happen here.
 - b. Homeless and Transient communities should not be moved along or hidden away.
 - c. Housing for athletes should immediately be transitioned to shelters, public housing, and community spaces.
6. Parks such as Raymond Park and Mowbray Park
 - a. All parks should be preserved and not be cut down.
7. Community and Public assets
 - a. Naming conventions for facilities should honour first nations communities.
 - b. Naming rights should not be sold.
 - c. I am deeply concerned that the rents in Kangaroo Point will become unaffordable to me.
 - d. Any developments should by design comply with the existing council plans.
 - e. Government owned companies should be set up to do most of the construction, with as little as possible contracted to private developers. Information about this should be readily available.
 - f. Caps should be placed on profits made by private developers. Any excess should be returned to the public purse.
 - g. The government should not subsidise property developers projects in relation to the games. Any government support should be treated as the public acquiring a permanent ownership stake in those projects and companies.
 - h. Facilities for the games should be built away from the city in areas of future growth.
 - i. A worker transition plan should be set up so that workers can continue to be meaningfully employed in public projects after the games.
 - j. A facility legacy plan should be made, so that any facilities should be made with the intended long term use to the community as a priority rather than the games.
 - k. When facilities are intended to be transferred to schools, they should only be given to public schools and not private schools.
 - l. The above ground surface of Gabba train station should be used as a public sports ground or park.

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- m. A pandemic plan should be set up, with outdoor quarantine facilities built well in advance should events such as the current pandemic reoccur.
- n. Policing is a concern, as many cities that have previously hosted the games reported intimidatory behaviour from police, especially towards young people and homeless communities.

I am available to discuss this submission in further detail.

Rainbows,
Jason Fernandez
Pronouns: he/him/his, they/them/their
E: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]