

Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to review the *Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021* (OPGA Bill).

The City of Gold Coast appreciates the requested changes made to the draft bill through the initial consultation process, however strongly believes that the outstanding issue of the Organising Committee membership is fundamental to Brisbane 2032 being a regional games.

Accordingly, the comments below are focused on the omission of a City of Gold Coast representative on the proposed Brisbane Organising Committee (OC) for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Corporation) Board.

Composition of the Corporation Board

Notwithstanding the sensibilities of establishing a workable Board membership number, it appears that Local Governments are under-represented on the OC Board. The explanatory notes state that the Membership of the Board can be set to ensure that voting rights reflect Games partners' level of investment and risk in Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032 Games). Under the current arrangements both local government appointments could be Brisbane based or represent Brisbane and another local government area that has investments, roles, responsibilities, and risks that are not commensurate with a Board membership. Under the current provisions the City of Gold Coast may have no form of representation on the OC Board and associated Board Committees.

Matters for consideration:

- Under the new Olympic Host model a region can now host the Olympic Games and the regional solution put forward under the Brisbane 2032 Games Candidature was received with great enthusiasm from the International Olympic Committee. Under this new model it would be reasonable to expect that the region has an important place on the OC Board and yet the OPGA Bill as currently proposed only supports the Brisbane Lord Mayor and his nominee.

The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast local government areas will host approximately 1/3 of all sport events. The number of venues and parks under the ownership of the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coasts local governments that will be utilised for the Brisbane 2032 Games, is likely to outnumber those owned by Brisbane City Council, noting that most venues in Brisbane will be under the ownership of the Queensland Government/Stadiums Queensland. In fact, all venues on the Gold Coast with the exception of the Robina Stadium and the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, are owned and/or managed by the City of Gold Coast.

It is worth noting the Gold Coast also contributed approximately \$23 million towards the land acquisition and construction of the Queensland government owned Robina Stadium and continues to exempt local government service charges on that venue. The City's capital contribution towards venues to be utilised for the Brisbane 2032 Games is estimated to be more than \$200 million when the Southport Broadwater Parklands site for triathlon is included (pro-rated against the total Southport Broadwater Parklands Development cost). Without these investments the Olympics proposal, in its current form, may not have been possible.

The Gold Coast continues to cover annual operating, capital renewal and major event costs associated with these City owned venues. This contrasts with Brisbane City who benefits from the substantial investment in Queensland owned sports infrastructure with little or no capital investment from Brisbane City. Accordingly, it could be argued that the shorter-term and longer-term venue risks are much higher for the City Gold Coast than for Brisbane City.

- The scale and scope of the Brisbane 2032 Games on the Gold Coast will be equivalent or larger than the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018). The predicted total ticketed spectator numbers and daily spectator numbers on the Gold Coast for the Brisbane 2032 Games are almost identical to the GC2018, before the Paralympics program is added. The scale and scope of the operational risks for the City are likely to be similar to that of Brisbane City when the resources of both local governments are factored in.
- The number of visitors on the Gold Coast is likely to significantly exceed GC2018 visitor numbers due to the number of tickets available for Gold Coast hosted sporting events and the additional spectators that will be drawn from Brisbane hosted sporting events due to inefficient hotel stock in Brisbane (after Games family and worldwide media accommodation demand is accounted for in Brisbane). From an operational point of view, this will require levels of service in public domain areas beyond that of GC2018.
- Notwithstanding the significant financial contributions of the Australian Government and Queensland Government, the combined financial commitment to supporting the Brisbane 2032 Games operations by Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast local governments is likely to be significant with no revenue returns (noting the OC will have substantial revenue opportunities) and yet the local governments have less than 10% of OC Board membership.
- The City of Gold Coast administration and Gold Coast Mayor would have more currency, experience and knowledge on hosting a major multi-event sports program than any other local government in the Australia (as a legacy of hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games). This experience and knowledge together with the lessons from GC2018 would add significant value to the 2032 OC Board.
- To leave Queensland's second largest City, and Australia's sixth largest City, without direct representation belies the mantra of a truly regional Olympic Games.

Noting the above it is suggested that the proposed composition of the Board be modified by:

- **Increasing the Local Government representation to three members**
- **The three Local Government members being the Brisbane Mayor, the Gold Coast Mayor and the Sunshine Coast Mayor**



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