



PolicyWonks
Level 5
231 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
Email: [REDACTED]

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Email: egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

RE: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021

The Queensland Government is to be commended for progressing the establishment of the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games this year.

The *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021* deserves bi-partisan support in State Parliament, just as the successful campaign to secure the Games had the co-operation of all levels of government and support from all sides of politics.

In appointing the Board of Directors for the Organising Committee, the Bill provides for *“a level of discretion granted to ensure that the board has the appropriate mix of skills and experience, at least 50% of nominated directors are women, and at least one of the independent directors are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, while ensuring that the interests of Games partners are adequately represented.”*

Furthermore, the Explanatory Notes of the Bill explain that *“approaches in other jurisdictions for previous editions of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the Sydney 2000 and London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, were taken into consideration during the drafting of the Bill. The Bill is largely consistent with the SOCOG Act, which established a board of directors to manage and control the affairs of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games.”*

The Queensland Government has cited research by KPMG and its prediction that hosting the 2032 Games would deliver \$8.1 billion in benefits to Queensland including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade and \$3.5 billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community benefits. It has also projected the 2032 Games will support 91,600 full-time equivalent jobs in Queensland. These forecasts are for the period of 2022 to 2042.



Despite this forecast of significant economic and social benefits, the Bill does not require the nomination of independent directors with qualifications and experience in these areas beyond having regard to a “*person’s skills, knowledge and experience in areas relevant to the performance of the board’s functions*”

Similarly, the *Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Act 1993* (SOCOG Act) stipulated only “*appropriate expertise and experience*” as a requirement for nominated independent Board directors.

The Committee should consider the composition of the Paris 2024 Board of Directors where its Board includes representative from the sporting movement and public bodies (including Government and Council) as is proposed in this Bill for the Brisbane 2032, as well as civil society with representatives from trade unions, employers and non-government organisations (NGOs) which is not provided for in this Bill.

The appointment of directors, with these skills and experience, may be achieved through the appointment processes in *Division 2 – Composition* of this Bill. Even if this is the case, with the appointment of Board directors for four-year terms (if not reappointed), the retention of these skills and expertise may not be maintained.

It would be a missed opportunity to not require the Board to be inclusive of qualified persons with experience in the areas of employee relations, employer representation and NGO administration. Conversely, by including representatives with the skills, expertise and background on the Board in these areas will assist to secure - and hopefully exceed - the projected economic and social benefits of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Recommendation

The Committee should consider more specific qualifications for independent Board directors be included in *Division 2* of the Bill, specifically to draw upon the talents and experience of people who have worked in civil society, business and NGOs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirby Anderson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kirby Anderson
Director
PolicyWonks