



**Amy MacMahon MP**  
Member for South Brisbane



South Brisbane, 8 November 2021

Economics and Governance Committee

Via email: [egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

***Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021***

Dear Economics and Governance Committee,

I am writing to thank you for your work in conducting an inquiry into the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021* (the bill).

My electorate of South Brisbane is proposed to be the epicentre for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games (the Games). While there will be considerable benefits to infrastructure, jobs and culture arising from the Games, I am worried that the government has not emphasised the importance of managing the social impacts and costs associated with the Games.

Further, there has been very little community consultation about Brisbane's Olympic Games bid, and the subsequent planning. On that basis, the purpose of this submission is to formally relay the results of the community consultation that I have been doing as the local member of parliament to the government.

It is not too late for the government to change its approach, and start planning to ensure all Queenslanders benefit from these Games. Without this, we risk a loss of green space, amenity and housing security in the local community and beyond.

In summarising the results of my community consultation, I wish to make the following recommendations in relation to the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangement Bill 2021*:

- 1. The government should amend the bill to ensure a member/s from the local community are appointed to both the organising committee, as well as the board of directors (amend Part 3, Div 2)**
- 2. That Part 7, Division 2 be removed to ensure that no documents, including those shared between the IOC and ACO, be exempt from Right to Information Requests (remove Part 7, Div 2)**
- 3. Given the fiscal risk being carried by the Queensland government, and the people of Queensland, that there be a firm ceiling on the Olympics' budget (amend Part 5, Clause 53)**
- 4. Recommendation 4: That the exemption of federal parliamentarians from the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 in relation to their work on the Olympic board of directors (Clause 8) be removed.**

In summarising the results of my community consultation, I wish to make the following recommendations in relation to the planning for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

- 5. The committee should investigate an alternative warm-up track to Raymond Park, and ensure that all planning for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivers more, not less, green space to local residents.**
- 6. The government must ensure that East Brisbane State School, in its current location, gets the upgrades and expansion it needs to thrive over the next decade and beyond, and for the school community to have a seat at the decision-making table.**
- 7. Use of an alternative existing stadium, such as QEII, should be considered given the commitment to 'The New Norm'.**
- 8. The government should invest in public and active transport infrastructure. In particular, more bike lanes and cross-suburban bus services are necessary.**

- 9. The government must ensure no Queensland is homeless by 2032. This should include a cap on rents and rates, to ensure these Games do not force people out of their local neighbourhood.**
- 10. All Olympic infrastructure must stay in public hands and be designed for ongoing public use, including accommodation and green space.**
- 11. The government upholds its own commitment to not only hosting a carbon neutral Games, but reducing the Games environmental footprint as much as possible.**
- 12. Ensure genuine First Nations engagement, involvement and ongoing benefits.**
- 13. Guarantee benefits for nearby small businesses, including full engagement.**

### **Community Consultation**

There has been very limited community consultation regarding the plans for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Neither the Labor state government nor the LNP Brisbane City Council have provided sufficient transparency about Brisbane's Olympic bid, or the planning that has ensued. The Council held a closed-door meeting to vote in favour of hosting the Olympics, locking the public out to keep the details of the bid private. The lack of consultation is in stark contrast to cities like Munich or Hamburg where residents had the opportunity to vote in a public plebiscite (to which they voted 'no').

In this absence, I have initiated community consultation processes, hosting three in-person meetings, and an online survey.

#### *In-person Meetings*

1. The first in-person meeting was a forum held at Metro Community Hub in Woolloongabba on 10 July 2021. In the lead-up to this event, my office promoted it on social media, via email, and by distributing thousands of physical invitations throughout Woolloongabba. This resulted in more than 70 RSVPs, and around 50 attendees. The forum involved presentations by informed residents and stakeholders, and breakout groups where attendees discussed the potential

negative impacts and desired benefits of the Games. The outcomes of this have been summarised in a community vision statement (see Appendix B).

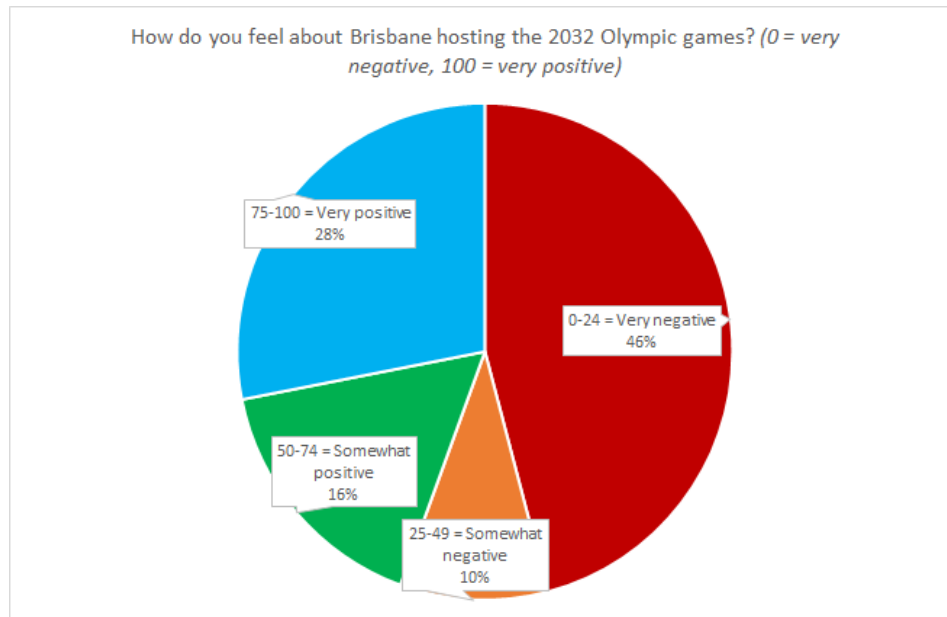
2. A week later on the morning of 17 July 2021, I hosted another informational meeting at Woolloongabba Place Park, which was also promoted via Facebook and email. Approximately a dozen residents attended, alongside local media and television stations. Myself, and Councillor Jonathan Sri for the Gabba Ward, provided residents with a brief about what had been announced so far, and facilitated a Q&A. Residents in attendance were most concerned about impacts on Raymond Park, East Brisbane State School, and the Woolloongabba Cross River Rail Station site.
3. On 18 September 2021, I hosted a community meeting in Raymond Park. This event was also heavily promoted by my office on social media and via email. We also letterboxed flyers to thousands of residents across Kangaroo Point, Woolloongabba, and East Brisbane. This resulted in more than ninety RSVPs, and around 70 attendees. At the meeting a clear consensus was reached; Raymond Park is not a suitable location for an Olympic's warm-up facility given its size, shape, popularity, and the lack of alternative green space in the area.

Further, I wish to place on record that the East Brisbane State School P&C have formed an Olympic Games' Impact Committee, and nearby residents have formed a 'Friends of Raymond Park' group – both have held in-person meetings regarding the 2032 Games, which I have attended to stay informed of community sentiment.

### Community Survey Results

To date, 477 people have responded to our survey regarding the Olympics. This was promoted on social media, and in a printed newsletter that went to the whole electorate. Below is a summary of the feedback received.

Respondents were asked to indicate their feelings regarding Brisbane hosting the 2032 Olympic Games.



The majority of respondents expressed feeling negative about Brisbane hosting the 2032 Olympics. 46% of respondents indicated feeling very negative (219 respondents), 10% indicated feeling somewhat negative (46 respondents), 16% were somewhat positive (78 respondents), 28% were very positive (134 respondents).

Respondents were asked to elaborate on their feelings (see Appendix A for more details). Of those who felt very negatively about the Olympics, key concerns included:

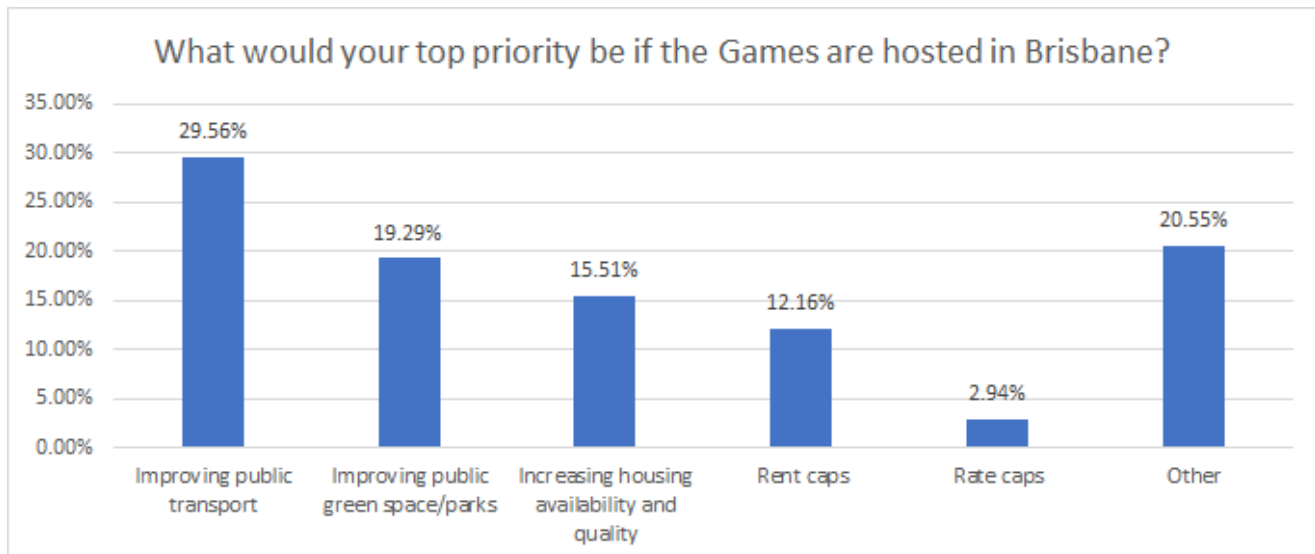
- That the Olympics Games are an excessive and unnecessary use of public money (108 responses)
- That this money would be better spent elsewhere in the community (53 responses)
- That rather than the Olympics, the government should focus on the housing crisis (33 responses)
- The Games will drive up cost of housing, and force people out of the neighbourhood (30 responses)
- Traffic Impacts in an already congested part of town (15 responses)
- That the Games, and infrastructure development, would lead to displacement of residents, in particular poorer communities (15 responses)
- That the promised economic benefits would be negligible or non-existent (14 responses)
- That the government should instead focus on education (14 responses)

- The impacts on East Brisbane State School (12 responses)

Of those who felt very positively about the Olympics, key benefits included:

- That the Olympics are an opportunities to invest in much-needed local infrastructure (38 responses)
- The Games as an opportunity to showcase Brisbane to the world (30 responses)
- The Games an an opportunity to Invest in public and active transport (13 responses)
- There would be an economic boost to the state (11 responses)
- New jobs would be created (9 responses)
- People were excited, but still voiced concerns around issues such as traffic, construction, cost neutrality, infrastructure investment, impacts to East Brisbane State School (7 responses)
- Love of sport (7 responses)
- Tourism benefits (7 responses)
- Boost for business (6 responses)

Respondents were also asked what their key priorities would be, if the Games were hosted in Brisbane. Nearly 30% said public transport, followed by improving public greenspace and parks, increasing housing availability, and rent caps.



Under 'Other', respondents noted:

- All of the options (17 responses)

- Protecting East Brisbane State School (11 responses)
- Greenspace (8 responses)
- Addressing the housing crisis (6 responses)
- Environmental impacts (4 responses)
- Ensuring locals aren't priced out (4 responses)
- Arts and culture (4 responses)
- Opposition to the Gabba redevelopment (3 responses)
- Unsustainable development (3 responses)

The feedback gathered over an in-depth consultation period indicates overall a feeling of apprehension and concern in the community, regarding the impacts of being the host neighbourhood for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Residents want to see vital investment in the neighbourhood, but are concerned that benefits may not meet costs. For both those excited about the Olympics, and those opposed to the Olympics, a strong focus was on the associated investment in crucial public infrastructure that would come as a result of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In particular, public transport was a key priority. This demonstrates the lack of investment in public transport by all levels of government. It also demonstrates peoples' general lack of trust in the political process - it takes a major event such as the Olympics to trigger long-needed local investment.

Given the above results, the voice of the community that will be most affected needs to be included in all decision-making, to ensure that local residents are able to realise the full benefits of the Games.

***Recommendation 1: That Part 3, Division 2 be amended to ensure a member/s from the local community is appointed to both the organising committee, as well as the board of directors.***

### **Transparency and Fiscal Accountability**

The Games will be a very costly venture. As such, accountability and transparency are crucial. In 2019 the Queensland Government commissioned KPMG to analyse the economic impact of the Games. It was initially estimated the Games would provide \$7.4 billion worth of 'quantifiable economic benefits.' Then in May 2021, this figure was increased to \$8.1 billion – but \$3.5 billion of that is ambiguous social benefits like

health, prestige, and civic pride. The KPMG report also indicated that up to 91,600 full-time-employment job years will be created in Queensland and up to 122,900 full-time-employment job years will be created nationally.

However, I note that 2011 modelling from Monash University on the economic impacts of the 2000 Sydney Games found that rather than producing an economic benefit, Australian household consumption was reduced by \$2.1 billion; there was also no evidence that the Sydney Games left a tourism legacy; and instead of boosting employment, the Games displaced employment in other activities/sectors. The Sydney Games also cost nearly twice as much as its original budget.<sup>1</sup>

I have heard from many residents who are skeptical about the predicted economic benefits - over 100 survey respondents indicated they felt that the Games would be an excessive use of taxpayer money, and over 50 felt that money would be better spent elsewhere. Local residents have expressed the need for more fiscal transparency and responsibility from the government, the AOC and the IOC – the opposite of what will be achieved by this bill.

Despite the government's presentation of this bill, it contains a number of features which are far out of step with community expectations in terms of accountability. As a key example, the provision in clause 8 of the bill to exempt federal parliamentarians from the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* in the course of their duties is completely unacceptable. Part 5, Clause 25 of the bill will mean any debt amassed by the 2032 Games will be paid by Queensland taxpayers, with the government guaranteeing any potential shortfall, leaving Queenslanders carrying all this financial risk. This bill will also exclude the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Games from Queensland's Right to Information rules, for documents shared with the IOC and AOC. This lack of transparency is unacceptable for a body which will receive at least \$5 billion in funding, potentially more, given the budget for the Brisbane Games has already increased by 30% in a single year. The government should be committed to full transparency and accountability at every state of the process.

Given the very short time frame the committee has given to the broader community to consider this Bill, I will be addressing these and similar issues which the community has not had a chance to consider, in future stages of the bill's passage.

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<sup>1</sup> Giesecke, J.A. and Madden, J.R. (2011), Modelling the Economic Impacts of the Sydney Olympics in Retrospect – Game Over for the Bonanza Story?. *Economic Papers: A journal of applied economics and policy*, 30: 218-232.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1759-3441.2011.00109.x>



***Recommendation 2: That Part 7, Division 2 be removed to ensure that no documents, including those shared between the IOC and ACO, be exempt from Right to Information Requests***

***Recommendation 3: Noting Part 5, given the financial risk being carried by the Queensland government, and the people of Queensland, that there be a firm ceiling on the Olympics budget***

***Recommendation 4: That the exemption of federal parliamentarians from the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 in relation to their work on the Olympic board of directors, in clause 8 of the bill, be removed.***

### **Impacts on Raymond Park**

Consistent with all other state government decisions about the Olympics to date, the government has identified Raymond Park to be dedicated as a warm-up track, with no consultation taking place with the local community. This means locals will lose access to a significant, well-used greenspace, the off-leash dog park, the community gardens, the soccer club and basketball, cricket and skateboard facilities, as well as spaces to hold children's birthday parties or barbecues.

In October 2021, East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point locals launched a petition to save Raymond Park, a key piece of green space on the southside, from becoming an Olympic warm-up track.<sup>2</sup> The petition sets out how fast the neighbourhood is growing, and how this density means that people need to access green space near their homes, and makes suggestions for an alternative location. We know, after however many COVID-19 lockdowns, how crucial this access to greenspace is. For many locals, Raymond Park is effectively their backyard, and vital to their mental health and wellbeing.

The government should investigate alternative sites, ensure no loss of greenspace, and adhere to the election commitment to at least 50% greenspace at the Cross River Rail station site.

***Recommendation 5: That the committee investigate an alternative warm-up track to Raymond Park, and ensure that all planning for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivers more, not less, green space to local residents.***

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.change.org/p/qld-state-government-kangaroo-point-green-space-save-raymond-park>

### Impacts on East Brisbane State School

Off the back of zero consultation, East Brisbane State School is facing the complete rebuilding of the Gabba stadium next door. It seems the government is hoping the school community drifts away to the surrounding schools. In a rapidly growing neighbourhood like East Brisbane, this is unacceptable.

The East Brisbane State School P&C Olympic Games' Impact Committee conducted a survey in May 2021. They received 165 responses, 110 of which were from the school community. The survey found that 96% of the wider community agreed that the area needs and deserves a primary school, and 71% of the school community think the school should stay in its current location.

The entire East Brisbane State School site is listed on the State Heritage Register. In particular, the main brick building and timber school hall have been designated a 'high level' of cultural significance. In 1997 when the Gabba Stadium was expanded to its current form, the school community demanded the school be retained, and this position is unchanged.

In response to the school's committee survey, 91% of respondents want the heritage buildings to remain and 63% want them to remain as a school.

***Recommendation 6: The government must ensure that East Brisbane State School, in its current location, gets the upgrades and expansion it needs to thrive over the next decade and beyond, and for the school community to have a seat at the decision-making table.***

### Impacts of Rebuilding the Gabba

The Gabba stadium, only recently refurbished, will be completely dismantled, with a \$1 billion stadium to go up in its place. The impacts will include:

- Significant negative impact on East Brisbane State School
- Impacts of construction, including traffic impacts, noise and dust
- Contravening the commitment to the IOC's "The New Norm"<sup>3</sup>, focusing on existing infrastructure in a cost-effective way

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<sup>3</sup> [Brisbane2032 | About Queensland and its government | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/about/brisbane2032)

Some survey respondents indicated that a rebuild of the Gabba was wasteful and unnecessary, with one respondent saying *“Waste of money, rebuilding a perfectly good stadium sounds silly, the idea that we will get short term cash is offset by all the energy the government has to waste into a pointless athletics tournament”* and *“Gabba has just been refurbished. Politicians playing with ratepayers money for their own ends”*.

***Recommendation 7: Use of an alternative existing stadium, such as QEII, given the commitment to The New Norm’.***

### **Investment in Public and Active Transport**

The government’s current solutions for traffic impacts in and around Woolloongabba is Cross River Rail and Brisbane Metro. We applaud these measures, but more is needed. South Brisbane is an old area of the city with old roads, and our electorate has already experienced significant population growth over the last few decades, exacerbating traffic problems. This situation will only worsen with heavy development anticipated for the 2032 Games. Concern about traffic congestion and traffic impacts, and investment in public transport, was a major feature of feedback from survey participants. Nearly 30% of respondents said that public transport was a major priority for them, if Brisbane hosts the Olympics. One participant said,

*“Olympics could be a great opportunity for SEQ - however citizens need to be included in the journey, services need to be developed with people in mind...More green and public space, better public transport and sustainable mobility, make street free of cars, embrace the 5 min neighborhood concept”*.

While another said,

*“The olympics has never proven to benefit any city that hosts. It is an out of date tradition that costs billions to fund. We are currently in a housing crisis and have horrendous public transport issues/poor infrastructure. We should be focusing on fixing those issues”*.

***Recommendation 8: Invest in public and active transport infrastructure. In particular, during consultation residents raised the need for more bike lanes and cross-suburban bus services.***

### Impacts on Housing affordability

There is a housing crisis in Queensland. 50,000 people are waiting for social housing. In October, the ABC reported that the median house price in Brisbane will tip \$1 million well before 2032.<sup>4</sup>

This is similar to what we saw with Expo '88. House prices rose by 238% in the 11 years before the event. Housing affordability and rental vacancies in Brisbane are already putting people in the neighbourhood in an unprecedentedly hard situation, and forcing people out of the neighbourhood.

I am really concerned about the people in inner Brisbane who are already facing housing insecurity, and the many people who are already homeless.

There is a long history of 'city cleansing' in the lead-up to international events. Police are instructed to remove people who are homeless from the streets, as happened in Brisbane during the G20 meeting, and on the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. Rather than properly funding and supporting housing services, an increased police presence has a huge impact on vulnerable groups and First Nations community members. 15 survey respondents noted 'Displacement of residents, in particular poorer communities' as a key concern for them. One participant said,

*"...homeless people always get kicked out of cities, increase in police/security presence...affordable housing is fucked enough already"*

Another participant said,

*"As Woolloongabba resident currently in a share house of both workers and students, I love the local area but am concerned about rent increases. We are already noticing rising rental price due to COVID-19 and people relocating to Brisbane, so we are anxious that the Olympics would price us out of the area. We are also concerned about current transport networks not coping"*

The state of the government's current plan for social housing, as well as funding for homelessness services, paints a dire picture of the next decade. The Olympics is an opportunity for Queensland to properly address the housing crisis.

***Recommendation 9: Ensure no Queensland is homeless by 2032. This should include a cap on rents and rates, to ensure these Games do not force people out of their local neighbourhood.***

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-16/olympic-real-estate-market-brisbane-2032-games/100436510>

### **Public ownership of all new infrastructure**

All Olympic infrastructure must stay in public hands and be designed for ongoing public use, including accommodation and green space.

For instance, the athletes village for the Sydney 2000 Games were reconfigured into 900 townhouses and 700 apartments.<sup>5</sup> For the Brisbane Games, the government should make a firm commitment that the athlete's village, currently planned for Hamilton, will be turned into long-term publicly-owned housing, given the already established negative impact the Games will have on housing affordability.

Likewise, the proposed site of the media centre along Montague Road must be returned to the public following the Games. Turning these industrial sites on the riverfront into public parkland is something South Brisbane residents and community groups, like WECA and Kurilpa Futures, have spent decades advocating for. The Lord Mayor's announcement about this site stated it would become a 'multi-use parkland and suburban renewal precinct.'

This is concerning. Residents are aware that after Expo '88, it was intended for the South Bank area to become a luxury hotel, world trade centre, retail section, and residential area. It was only after significant community push back, residents secured half of the site as publicly accessible space, resulting in the privatised South Bank Parklands Corporation. While an improvement from the original plan, this parkland is highly regulated and is designed around consumption and spending.<sup>6</sup> This must not happen after the 2032 Games.

***Recommendation 10: All Olympic infrastructure must stay in public hands and be designed for ongoing public use, including accommodation and green space.***

### **Sustainability and the Environment**

The new sustainable and environmentally conscious approach being taken to the 2032 Games is welcomed. The International Olympics Committee helped establish the United Nations Sports for Climate

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-16/olympic-real-estate-market-brisbane-2032-games/100436510>

<sup>6</sup> Ganis, Mary, Minnery, John, and Mateo-Babiano, Derlie (2014). The evolution of a masterplan: Brisbane's South Bank, 1991-2012. Urban Policy and Research 32 (4) 499-518. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08111146.2013.877390>

Action Framework in 2018, which drives climate action from international sporting bodies.<sup>7</sup> Likewise, the Queensland Government has committed to deliver a carbon neutral 2032 Brisbane Games, to be guided by the following key principles:

- minimising the Games' footprint as much as possible before compensating more than 100% of residual emissions
- continuously improving emissions forecasting and measurement to support evidence-based decision making
- ensuring consistency and transparency across the event lifecycle to promote accountability and comparability
- influencing to create change and deliver verifiable climate positive outcomes for Queensland and Australia, including by promoting shared responsibility.<sup>8</sup>

However, given the lack of consultation conducted by the government so far, residents are questioning the government's commitment to transparency and accountability. Further, residents have questioned whether spending \$1 billion tearing down and rebuilding the Gabba Stadium is a sustainable approach to the Games. Similarly, building 'temporary' warm-up facilities at Raymond Park when the community would want it removed following the Games, and returned to parkland, would be a waste of resources.

Specifically, residents have requested feasibility studies be conducted for alternative locations for the warm-up facilities, like Giffin Park. Building warm-up facilities at Giffin Park would mean high school students would be provided with world class athletics facilities after the Games. QEII stadium has also been presented by residents as an alternative to the Gabba altogether – it is purpose built for athletics and already has nearby warm-up track and facilities. Moreover, the Mt Gravatt and Sunnybank communities would benefit greatly from increased public transport accessibility, which would be used by residents after the games, having additional climate benefits.

***Recommendation 11: The government must uphold its own commitment to not only hosting a carbon neutral Games, but reducing the Games environmental footprint as much as possible.***

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-02/emma-mckee-olympians-message-glasgow-climate-change/100588348>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.des.qld.gov.au/climateaction/climate-positive-games>

## First Nations involvement

Beyond housing, there must also be a broader commitment to engage with First Nations elders and communities in a meaningful way, including seeking consent and providing genuine employment opportunities.

During the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, First Nations groups, including the *Warriors of the Aboriginal Resistance*, held protest actions against the *Stolenwealth Games*, drawing attention to Australia's colonial crimes and the continuing injustices experienced by First Nations people.<sup>9</sup>

It is my understanding that at international mega events such as these, often First Nations communities feel they are only given tokenistic representation, with governments and organisations using First Nations' culture to market Australia to an international audience, while simultaneously damaging or displacing those same communities. This must not be repeated at the 2032 Games. I note that the Bill stipulates that one member of the corporation be an indigenous person. I trust the government will ensure that First Nations involvement and engagement extend beyond this one member, to include in-depth consultation, and genuine economic and cultural opportunities.

***Recommendation 12: Ensure genuine First Nations engagement, involvement and ongoing benefits.***

## Local Small Business and Employment Benefits

Local residents and businesses are also seeking a commitment from the government to prioritise existing small businesses and full-time, long-term employment opportunities. Many survey respondents noted 'jobs' and 'employment' as a key benefit of Queensland hosting the Games. One respondent said,

*"I think it will bring the opportunity for jobs to be created, legacy infrastructure and Brisbane become a more tourist known location".*

Some survey respondents also recalled the negative impact that the Commonwealth Games had on small business in the Gold Coast. One respondents said,

*"Developers will get a pass to do just about anything they want to as "It will advance the Olympic experience" and the rest of us will pick up the bill and a massive amount of inconvenience. Ask the*

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<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/apr/07/stolenwealth-games-indigenous-protests-continue-on-gold-coast>

*small business at the Gold Coast who went bankrupt because of the Commonwealth Games what they think”.*

While another said,

*“I feel like Australians and small businesses are struggling enough as is, and it's an insult to have the Olympics which will cost taxpayers when the money could go to better services.”*

Small business owners who attended consultation sessions expressed concern about small businesses being fenced out of, and excluded from, the main Games precinct, eliminating the opportunity for benefits from tourism and businesses. There needs to be a guarantee that businesses around Games precincts across Queensland will be included in order to benefit from tourism and visitors, and a commitment to local jobs.

***Recommendation 13: Guarantee benefits for nearby small businesses and local jobs, including full engagement with local businesses.***

The South Brisbane community - and all Queenslanders - deserve for the government to be upfront about their plans to mitigate the social impacts of the Games, so we truly have an Olympics for everyone, not just those likely to profit economically off the Games. There are huge benefits that could be realised for the community, but these can only be realised with a commitment to consultation, accountability and transparency.

Again, I thank you for your work on this inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 3724 9100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Amy MacMahon

Member for South Brisbane



**Appendix A: Survey Results***Feedback from people who felt very negatively about the Games*

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>	<b>Example Quote</b>
Excessive use of public money	108	"The Olympics are a huge waste of money and displace the poor, and Brisbane does not have the infrastructure to support this"
Money would be better spent elsewhere	53	"The Olympic games will be expensive and we can better spend the money on improving our community in SEQ. We don't need the games here, we need better infrastructure for locals".
Focus on the housing crisis	33	"Funds could have been spent on more important need of the every Queenslander, such as budget for public school, hospitals, homelessness etc"
Will drive up cost of housing	30	"As an elderly resident I am very concerned about the increases in rates that will result which will ultimately force us out by making it unaffordable to live here". "Inflation in the area, potential evictions of long term tenants"
Traffic Impacts	15	"...disruption to the community (traffic, noise, pollution, damage, violence, access), loss of and wasted resources including loss of green space, increased rental prices and homelessness, loss of access to amenities in the months around it, public transport issues".
Displacement of residents, in particular poorer communities	15	"Inflation in the area, potential evictions of long term tenants"

Negligible economic benefits	14	"Evidence shows cities which host the Olympics often suffer dramatically both during and after - disruption to people's lives but much less revenue raised than expected via tourism, leading to huge debt"
Focus on education	14	"The money should be spent on health education and social housing".
Impact on East Brisbane State School	12	"my heritage primary school with lots of history is being destroyed, high rise development in the area opposed by locals, destroying and re-building the Gabba is a waste since it was recently renovated"
Resident disruption	11	"Hosting the games will also put unnecessary pressure on residents to accommodate a large volume of tourists (ie increases in traffic, road closures, crowds) while we are trying to go about our lives. I don't think the expense of hosting the Olympics will be worth it for Queenslanders in the long run".
Environmental Impacts	9	"... increase in environmental degradation (from increase in resources used for building materials, material consumption, air, soil and water pollution from building sites, increased traffic, and litter). Funds could be better allocated to public housing, health and renewables".
Focus on healthcare	9	"There is too much risk and not enough being spent on affordable housing and healthcare for Brisbane community members already"
Gentrification	8	"Unregulated gentrification and rent increases, increased privatisation of land, increased car traffic, loss of authentic sense of community in

		suburbs like West End, increased social inequality, increased environmental impacts from development and international travel to Australia
Wasteful to rebuild the Gabba	8	"Waste of money, rebuilding a perfectly good stadium sounds silly, the idea that we will get short term cash is offset by all the energy the government has to waste into a pointless athletics tournament"
Negative experience of the Commonwealth Games	7	"Ask the small business at the Gold Coast who went bankrupt because of the Commonwealth Games what they think. It is time for the Olympics to be properly set up in Greece and stay there".
Short-term thinking	7	"The amount of money being spent for a single event, the overinflated positive impacts the gov promises for every event. The serious negative impacts it will have on the neighbourhood."
Risk of over-policing	6	"Long history of it costing way more than it brings in, homeless people always get kicked out of cities, increase in police/security presence".
Corruption risks	5	"Evidence of corruption and wasted money in previous Olympic Games".
Focus on Climate Change	5	"An enormous amount of money will be spent on Olympics, rather than affordable housing, climate change and a host of pressing issues for Queenslanders".
Lack of consultation	5	"No broad nor inclusive community engagement and consultation. Shows lack of awareness about planning decisions needing to be made with community... In real and authentic ways".

Negative experiences in other host cities	5	"No one has ever financially benefited from hosting except some big developers with the downside disproportionately affecting the vulnerable & working class. The globe is littered with abandoned infrastructure built for the Olympics usually over budget & below par due to unrealistic deadlines. The Games here wld be a death knell for East Brisbane SS."
Overdevelopment	4	"Likely to lead to more unsustainable development, loss of green space and public space and closure of many existing green and public spaces during and around the games".
Commercialisation	3	"I think the Olympics has become crazily over-commercialised".
Heritage Impacts	3	"Impact on lifestyle, traffic congestion, loss of the heritage school and rates increases".
Impact to Raymond Park	3	"Worried about how it's going to affect my local community including my football club, KPR, based at Raymond Park. Worried about how development might affect rent. Worried about the public expense with limited benefits. Money could be spent elsewhere".
Little benefit to local economy	3	"Experience from the 2018 commonwealth games Gold Coast: the restrictions, negative impact on the local economy, disruption"
Loss of greenspace	3	"Waste of tax payer money, and will have a huge negative impact on the local area, including road closures causing more congestion, and loss of use of local parks for weeks on end".
Negative impact on small	3	"Hurting smaller businesses with the lack of locals

business		wanting to go out Money being spent on sporting stadiums instead of improving health, transport and housing for the public The aftermath of the olympics and what it has done to other countries”.
Unnecessary infrastructure	2	“I’m worried we’ll put money and resources into developing infrastructure that will fall into disuse, and this might displace people living in certain areas to make way for these buildings. I’m not keen on increased surveillance measures that target disadvantaged and homeless people”.
Use existing infrastructure elsewhere	2	“Use the infrastructure already created on the Gold Coast”.
Risk of short-term rentals	2	“Housing will become air bnb with Short term rentals for the game”.
Privatisation	2	“Risks of privatisation of public spaces (for sporting venues and accommodation), and diversion of public funds to support an event with primarily private beneficiaries (businesses)”.
Will likely move out of the neighbourhood	1	“I also suspect that Brisbane becoming the host city for the Olympics will herald the end of my family’s life in Woolloongabba”.
Will only benefits those already in a position of power	1	“It will mainly benefit the elite and wealthy. The benefits are not likely to be distributed to the general public, and the social and environmental costs will be massive and long-lasting”.

*Feedback from people who felt very positively about the Games*

<b>Themes</b>	<b>Number of Comments</b>	<b>Example Quote</b>
Opportunities to improve local infrastructure	38	"I support the idea that it will bring forward some much needed infrastructure and transport projects that otherwise would not happen or be a long way off".
Showcase Brisbane	30	"I love that the whole world will be watching our beautiful city host such a great cultural event. I look forward to volunteering and getting to be a part of it. It's a once in a lifetime experience for me to be in a city hosting the Olympics! Can't wait!"
Investment in public and active transport	13	"I'm hoping there will be a focus on sustainability, upgraded public transport and high speed rail".
Economic boost	11	"I think it will be a great thing to improve the economy and put Brisbane on a more global platform".
Jobs	9	"The Olympics means jobs for people".
Excited but apprehensive	7	"Excited but apprehensive about changes, traffic, construction in my local area".
Love of sport	7	"I love sport and the way it brings people together but worry about the impacts to the city".
Tourism	7	"Be good for tourism and would inject money into the QLD economy".

Boost for businesses	6	"Influx of people = support local business".
Fun and joy	6	"The structure of the city, the facilities available, the international profile, and the excitement of the game".
Good experiences in other host cities	6	"I love in Sydney during the 2000 games. It bought out the best community spirit I've even seen. It improved infrastructure. It was one of the best experiences of my life!"
Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity	6	"For most people it would be a once in a lifetime experience. I went to Games in Sydney and it was an amazing experience. Great for Queensland!"
Public pride	6	"I love sport and the way it brings people together but worry about the impacts to the city". "Pride and infrastructure development in woolloongabba and east Brisbane".
Excited to go to the Games	4	"It will improve infrastructure and put Bris on map. Also I can go the games".
Opportunities to clean up the neighbourhood	4	"This is a fantastic opportunity for the area of Woolloongabba which people still consider grungy. This will bring a big change in the landscaping and improvements in the pathways and local business for those who have been struggling since Covid."
Recollections of Expo '88	4	"Exciting opportunity for Brisbane. Southbank is a

		wonderful legacy from Expo, so what can we do with this this opportunity? Need to reduce the dominance of cars and priorities pedestrians and cyclists”.
Important to use existing infrastructure	3	“All the positive economic benefits that flow from having a spectacle like the Olympics but increased due to the new model utilised where significant reliance is placed on existing infrastructure rather than building facilities from scratch. This will help keep costs down, not to say there won't be considerable costs but less than the current model. This will help drive ongoing benefits to the community, region and state”.
International Collaboration	2	“Wonderful event fostering goodwill between nations. International collaboration and peace that the Olympics represents are more important than local logistical challenges that we can overcome”.
Live in the area	2	“I love living in East Brisbane (renter dream of buying a property one day in east Brisbane.) Close to the city and amenities tourists love to visit when in Brisbane. Just a great area”.
Opportunity to address housing affordability with rent caps	2	“Reduce digital divide around suburbs, cap housing rent”. “Infrastructure development, the world knowing that Brisbane exists, tourism=economic growth, improving public transport, rent caps”



Still concerned about EBSS	3	"I understand this is hard for the East Brisbane state school but we have ten years to come up with a solution! Those current children will not be at this school at this time, however my future child could be, however the opportunity for Brisbane itself is greater".
Impacts to Raymond Park	2	"The proposal to use/rebuild the Gabba and bulldoze Raymond Park prevent me from fully supporting the games in Brisbane. New facilities should be built near Chandler & other existing sporting venues east of the city".
An exemplar Olympics	1	"Showing the world how well we can host the Olympics".
Chance to share awareness about key issues	1	"I also love the opportunity to raise awareness of some of our less pretty social and community issues, so they can be properly addressed!"
Concerned about construction	1	"I think hosting the Olympics as a city is a great opportunity to showcase the city and get some great legacy projects, however I don't like the idea of 5 years of construction in our local community, the implications this will have on business and most of all our school"
Consultation needs to be done right	1	"Olympics good be a great opportunity for SEQ - however citizens need to be included in the journey, services need to be developed with people in mind".
Hoping upgrades will push	1	"I'm hoping the upgrades to the area will attract

down crime		potential residents and hopefully decrease the high level of petty crime and drug use in the area”.
Investment in greenspace	1	“Olympics good be a great opportunity for SEQ....More green and public space, better public transport and sustainable mobility, make street free of cars, embrace the 5 min neighborhood concept.”
Investment in renewables	1	“Love the olympics. Lots of opportunities for queenslanders in general and to pressure the state government to get to 100% renewable energy in time for the games”.
Opportunities for better disability accessibility	1	“This is an incentive for much needed improvements and development of our built spaces and infrastructure especially fir people with disabilities”.
Would like poor people to be pushed out of the neighbourhood	1	“Increase in property price & hopefully we can rid the area of low income types”.

Appendix B: Draft Community Vision

**DRAFT COMMUNITY VISION**  
for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games

Here's some ideas for a community vision based on what the community has told me so far:

- Full consultation**  
A community 'seat at the table' for full consultation at every step of the process, and all aspects of the Olympics planning and running. What has been missing to date is any consultation with Queenslanders, and particularly those Queenslanders who live in the neighbourhoods surrounding the Gabba Stadium.
- First Nations involvement**  
A commitment to engage with First Nations elders and communities in a meaningful way, including: seeking consent, meaningful jobs and employment.
- Protect and expand East Brisbane State School**  
A guarantee that East Brisbane State School will not only be maintained, but enhanced, and included as part of Gabba redevelopment planning.
- Expand greenspace**  
Investment in further greenspace for the Woolloongabba, Kangaroo Point, and East Brisbane community
- Woolloongabba Cross River Rail site**  
Ensuring the Cross-River Rail station site in Woolloongabba is developed in line with community needs and expectations, including public greenspace, social housing and community facilities, and the whole site to stay in public hands.
- Development needs to meet community need**  
Any development in the neighbourhood must adhere to neighbourhood plans, with a focus on sustainable, affordable housing.
- Public ownership of all new infrastructure**  
Ensuring that new infrastructure stays in public hands, and is designed for ongoing public use, including housing and accommodation.
- Local jobs**  
Employment opportunities for local residents, with a focus on long-term, sustainable jobs.
- Support for people experiencing homelessness**  
A commitment to sustainable, long-term housing for any people sleeping rough, rather than employing 'move-on' techniques as seen during the Commonwealth Games and G20.
- Public and active transport**  
Investment in public and active transport, including bike lanes, and cross-neighbourhood bus services.
- Heritage protection**  
Protection of nearby heritage sites, including the Broadway Hotel and East Brisbane Bowls Club.
- Fiscal transparency**  
A commitment to ongoing reporting and transparency regarding investment of public money, and ongoing social and economic monitoring regarding the impacts of Games planning and implementation.
- Support Local Businesses**  
A commitment to provide opportunities that come from hosting the games to local businesses, as well as minimising any negative impacts on local businesses and their employees.
- Ensuring housing affordability**  
Urgent measures to maintain affordability and cost of living in the surrounding neighbourhoods, including rate caps, rent caps, and investment in social housing, and a commitment to existing residents that they won't be priced out of the neighbourhood.
- Protect and enhance Raymond Park**  
A commitment that Raymond Park be returned to the community as a park and sports facility as soon as possible after the games, and additional greenspace of an equivalent size and quality provided to the East Brisbane and Kangaroo Point community during any interruption to public access to the park due to the games.

**What do you think?**  
We'd love your feedback

[amymacmahon.com/vision](https://amymacmahon.com/vision)