
Submission to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee
Written Briefing
Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games

SUMMARY

1. The Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (DSROPG) was formed following the November 2024 machinery of government changes.
2. DSROPG is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Queenslanders by promoting the sport and active recreation sectors, community sport, preparing Queensland elite athletes for world class success, supporting the racing industry and supporting preparations for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Brisbane 2032).
3. Led by Director-General Andrew Hopper, DSROPG's services and impacts stretch across all Queensland regions and is made possible by 465 staff in 20 statewide locations.
4. DSROPG supports four statutory bodies including, Stadiums Queensland, Racing Queensland, the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee and the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority, while the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Minister) is also responsible for the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission.

KEY POINTS

Strategic Objectives

5. DSROPG supports the Minister to deliver the core portfolio values of:
 - driving grassroots sports and recreation participation across the State, noting the long-term health and societal benefits;
 - developing elite athletes who inspire and connect with their communities, to create the next generation of champions;
 - ensuring every part of Queensland benefits from Brisbane 2032;
 - working to ensure Olympic venues facilitate long-term interest and drive participation across Queensland;
 - activate opportunities for Queensland to host key sporting events and national training facilities; and
 - strengthening the integrity of the racing industry, ensuring the long-term viability of all racing codes and venues, and maintaining high animal welfare standards.

Service Areas

6. Sport and Recreation (SR), the Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) and the Office of Racing operate as one service area that:
 - supports and encourages participation in sport and active recreation through delivery of grant funding for sporting organisations and clubs, delivery of infrastructure and participation programs, and by engaging and partnering with Queensland's active industry;
 - prepares over 500 Queensland elite athletes (participating across 21 different sports), along with their teams and coaches, for world class success during their journey from talented juniors to Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship medallists;
 - administers the *Major Sports Facilities Act 2001* which establishes Stadiums Queensland, a statutory body that manages, develops, operates and promotes the use of the Queensland's major sport, entertainment and recreational facilities;
 - owns and operates six venues, including the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast Recreation Precincts, Gold Coast Performance Centre, Townsville Sports Precinct, Toowoomba Sports Ground and Brisbane Sports House; and
 - provides advice to the Minister in administration of the *Racing Act 2002* and the Racing Regulation 2023, and provides timely management of the Racing Infrastructure Fund, supporting the racing industry in Queensland.
7. The Olympic and Paralympic Games Office plays a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of Brisbane 2032 through:
 - administering the *Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021*;
 - providing governance and secretariat services to senior governance groups; and
 - overseeing planning and delivery of the state's Brisbane 2032 activities and responsibilities.

Key Initiatives

8. DSROPG key initiatives include:

- Administration of \$250 million through the Games On! program, seeking to deliver new or upgraded fields and courts, clubhouses, changerooms, or lighting across Queensland in the leadup to Brisbane 2032.
- Delivery of a comprehensive, independent review of Queensland's racing industry.
- Ensuring appropriate planning is underway to deliver a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland.
- The Youth Development Partnership Fund (YDPF) – A joint initiative between DSROPG and the Queensland Police Service, with contributions from the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres, Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism. The YDPF supports and uplifts 'at-risk' youth through the power of sport and recreation delivering an avenue for personal growth and development.
- The SR Sponsorship Program – This program provides targeted investment and seeks to collaborate with key stakeholders, for delivery and leverage of major and community events and initiatives.
- The Emerging Athlete Program (EAP) – EAP provides support to eligible young athletes, coaches and officials aged 10-18 years with the costs associated with attending state, national and international events.
- Disaster Recovery – The Sport and Recreation Disaster Recovery Program and the Australian and Queensland Government jointly funded Community and Recreational Assets Recovery and Resilience Program help repair and rebuild after significant disaster events across the state.

Performance Measures

9. Current performance measures for DSROPG include:

- leveraging investment as a result of sport and recreation infrastructure funding;
- level of overall customer satisfaction with SR venues;
- improved participation or capability as a result of funding received;
- effective administration costs and business processing times;
- achieving gender equity on funded state-level sporting organisation boards;
- proportion of individuals in priority cohorts participating in sport and recreation programs, including women and girls, First Nations peoples and people with disability;
- percentage of Queensland athletes selected for national teams; and
- co-contribution ratio of partnership investment at the QAS.

Strategic Challenges

10. DSROPG strategic challenges include:

- the ability to attract appropriate investment into Queensland within the current economic climate;
- Queenslanders may reduce their participation in sport due to cost-of-living pressures;
- elite athletes are not continuing to participate in traditional Olympic sports due to increasing opportunities from professional sports codes; and
- being unable to deliver strategies due to limited available resources.

Resourcing

Service Area Funding	2024-25 Budget
Sport and Recreation, Queensland Academy of Sport and Office of Racing	\$422,125,000
Olympic and Paralympic Games Office	\$9,402,000
Total Funding	\$431,527,000
Service Area FTE	2024-25 Budget
Sport and Recreation, Queensland Academy of Sport and Office of Racing	458
Olympic and Paralympic Games Office	7
Total FTE	465

Capital Works

11. DSROPG has a capital works program of \$29.7 million for 2024-25, supporting ongoing improvements to SR venues such as the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast Recreation Precincts and the Townsville Sports Precinct.