



Speech by

**BRUCE DAVIDSON**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 6 September 2000

### **GOODWILL GAMES**

**Mr DAVIDSON** (Noosa—LP) (11.11 p.m.): Back in 1996 as Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry, I authorised the Queensland Events Corporation to undertake research into the Goodwill Games and the potential for the State of Queensland to stage this outstanding sporting event. After much research and expert investigation, an opinion by Ernst & Young that the staging of the 2001 Goodwill Games was a viable proposition for Brisbane and the State of Queensland was reached.

Let me emphasise that conclusion by Ernst & Young. It stated—

"Brisbane and the State of Queensland."

Whilst the Goodwill Games title now has Brisbane attached, there never was any doubt that the State of Queensland was a partner in the games. In January 1998, at a meeting between the then chief executive of the Queensland Events Corporation and the President of the Queensland Events Corporation, Mr John Jamison, who met with executives of the Goodwill Games Incorporated, it was advised that Brisbane and Queensland would be required to formally present its bid in Atlanta on 23 February 1998.

On 23 February, a delegation headed by Mr Williams and Mr Jamison formally presented our bid for the Goodwill Games of 2001. In March 1998 the coalition Cabinet formally approved the bid and the contractual arrangements necessary to stage the Goodwill Games in 2001. We are now only 12 months away from staging these games, the first time these games have been held outside the USA or Europe.

A number of venues for the 12 core sports that make up the games have been considered and some have been finalised. One of the most spectacular of these events, the triathlon, is still to be determined. So far, events have been scheduled for the Gold Coast and Brisbane, with the possibility of the triathlon being staged in Brisbane. These decisions hardly encompass the notion of the State of Queensland. These decisions have been discussed despite the fact that the second biggest triathlon ever staged in the world, and the biggest triathlon ever staged in Australia, happens each year in Noosa Heads and has for the last 18 years—an event recognised by both competitors and officials as one held in one of, if not the best, triathlon course and venue in the world.

Even former Premier and now current chairman of the Goodwill Games in Brisbane, Mr Wayne Goss, has been a participant in this world-class event and has personal experience of the superb management of the triathlon by promoter and organiser, Mr Garth Proud, and his expert team.

The Noosa council and the Noosa Triathlon Management Group and Mr Proud's United Sports Marketing have experience second to none in the world at staging sports events such as the Goodwill Games triathlon. It has 18 years of triathlon management and experience in one of the world's best venues. Only 50 competitors, 25 male and 25 female, the very best in the world, will participate in this race scheduled for Sunday, 2 September 2001.

Why should these very best athletes be denied the opportunity to compete on the very best course in Australia? Athletes can and do compete in capital cities around the world and never notice the difference. Skyscrapers, pollution in the air and in the waterways, murky city back streets and make-do bunting are the same no matter the name of the big capital city, but just another capital city. Such venues—and Brisbane qualifies on all counts—complete with suspect pollution in the Brisbane River where it is proposed to hold the swim leg of the race do nothing to tell the millions upon millions around

the world watching on television that in Australia we have sporting venues and lifestyles that are not tainted with the curse of commercial pollution.

In Noosa Heads, we are fortunate enough to live in one of the most pristine places in the world. This is one of the many reasons past triathlons held in Noosa have been so successful and why world-class competitors return to our event every year. Added to this unpolluted environment, we not only have a triathlon course that the world champions declare one of the best, but we also have the expertise that makes it so.

The intent of these games is to bring together the very best athletes in the world in their chosen events. It should surely follow that a host venue that has runs on the board in staging such elite events should be the place where we show the world the very best Queensland has to offer. The potential to showcase Australia and Queensland to the world will have no better television graphics to parade Australia to the world than the natural beauty that is Noosa. With a visual beauty that has made it one of the most sought after tourist destinations in Australia and a worldwide reputation for its natural lifestyle, Noosa Heads has an Australian appeal to a world market that these games will provide second to none. The panorama of Noosa's pristine beaches, river parklands and the magnificent vista of Laguna Bay from all sections of the proposed triathlon course can only further enhance Queensland's reputation for beauty in the sun, a beauty that will not be lost on the devotees of American and European holiday destinations.

The Noosa council is corporatively committed to sustaining and maintaining the highest environmental standards that can be imagined anywhere in the world in water and air quality. Can we offer these champion athletes any other venue than one of such great natural beauty combined with an environment second to none in this or any other country such as Noosa provides?

Noosa Heads meets all the criteria required by the organiser of the 2001 Goodwill Games, a major requirement being that we are no further than one and a half hour's drive from Brisbane, a trip time which can be maintained even in weekend traffic. We have the accommodation facilities required for the staging of this event that are second to none and totally adjacent to the course and marshalling areas. Noosa has at its disposal what is considered by athletes themselves the best course in Australia.

Time expired.

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