



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Hansard Tuesday, 28 November 2006

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (3.35 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in support of this Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill. Continuing on from what the member for Gladstone has said, sport these days is big business. Most of the funds that come in from sport these days come from two major sources: attendance and sponsorship. The reality is that no major sporting event today would work without sponsorship. Prior to entering this place I had a bit to do with the sporting industry. It was quite apparent that local clubs were reliant on sponsorship. Anything that we as a government and as a parliament can do to ensure that the sponsorship dollar will continue to support sporting events and sporting organisations is a good thing. To—for want of a better word—ban the blimp if it has not been approved will in the long term achieve good outcomes for this city and this state when it comes to conducting major sporting events.

The Brisbane Cricket Ground—the Gabba—has just achieved a record crowd and I must compliment all those involved in Major Sports Facilities Authority, in particular a friend of mine who is the manager of the Gabba and ANZ Stadium, Chris Cochrane. He and his team did a marvellous job of putting on a great event at the Gabba. He even became a bit of a media star over the last week and a half and I think he did a pretty good job of that. I congratulate Chris and his team on the excellent work that they did during the cricket. It was a great experience.

I attended one day of the cricket. There were a couple of little hiccups early on the Thursday morning in relation to transport but that was mainly because there were more people coming from the city than usual. That was obviously as a result of more overseas and interstate travellers. The transport system overall coped particularly well.

I travelled home from the Gabba on the bus and I happened to sit next to a person who used to work for the ICC. He has travelled the world. He lived in Brisbane for five years but is now back living in England. He has worked for Zimbabwe cricket and the ICC. I did not prompt him and I did not tell him what I did until after this conversation, but he could not believe our great south-east busway. He had travelled up from Loganholme with some friends of his that he was staying with and he reckons that he has never been on such a world-class transport system. I agreed with him wholeheartedly. It was a great pleasure to listen to this person who, as I said, has travelled the world and thought our bus system was terrific.

I commend the other provisions of this amendment bill that address the issue of ticket scalpers and the placing of a 10 per cent cap on the price of tickets that are unsold. I commend the minister for this legislation. I cannot say that in the past I have not actually tried to buy a scalper's ticket—I declare it—but it was not illegal then—at least not in Queensland. When we were going down to Sydney to watch the St George-Melbourne grand final we realised that we were in row 999. So we took up a better offer as we were walking through the gate. We ended up having good seats, although the result was not superb for any St George supporter.

I commend the minister for these changes. We are now attracting world-class events because we have world-class stadiums in the form of the Gabba and Suncorp Stadium. No-one could doubt that this city has now got a world-class stadium for rectangular sport and oval sport that is the envy of many others. We have a lot to be proud of considering the transport systems we now have in place with nearly 80 per

cent of the people catching transport to Suncorp Stadium—and I am sure that the number travelling to the Gabba over the weekend increased dramatically—and, in the future, the world-class management in the Major Sports Facilities Authority. I look forward in years to come to attending a number of events. Not only are they a direct result of the changes we are making here; more importantly, they have come about because of the great stadiums, the great facilities and the great management. I look forward to attending many more sporting events at those great sporting facilities. I commend the bill to the House.