



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic Games, Queensland Athletes

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.40 am): Tomorrow, Friday, 24 August, Queenslanders will welcome home the Australian Olympic team. The Queensland government, along with the Brisbane City Council, will host a tickertape parade through the Queen Street Mall. Queenslanders are encouraged to come and support their sporting heroes as they walk along the parade route from 12 noon. Seventy-seven athletes and six team officials will participate in the parade. If it is anything like parades of the past, it will be something for them and certainly us to remember. It will finish with a public presentation of the athletes on stage at Reddacliff Place. This will then be followed by an official reception for the team at Parliament House.

There will be some great opportunities for Queenslanders to come out and celebrate the team's efforts at the London Olympics, and we have good reason to celebrate. Queensland had the highest representation of any state in Australia's Olympic team. There were 90 athletes from our state competing at the games. Queensland has always been a great sporting state, and this was highlighted by the success of our state's medallists. Australia's first gold medal of the games went to the women's swimming 4x100-metre relay, an all-Queensland team. Another Queensland, Anna Meares, did us proud when she won gold in the women's track cycling sprint. And who could forget Sally Pearson's gold in the women's 100-metre hurdles? I sat there with tears in my eyes watching that one. Our Queensland athletes also went on to win a raft of silver and bronze medals throughout the games—an amazing success. I particularly look forward to welcoming home our Queensland athletes and celebrating the achievements of this great team as a whole.

I want to give a special shout-out this morning to the three bronze-medal-winning medallists from the women's water polo team who live in my electorate of Ashgrove: Bronwen Knox, Sophie Smith and Jane Moran. It was a privilege to personally wish them well before they went to London, and it is now very exciting to welcome them home as Olympic medallists.

Athletes put in long hours and make personal sacrifices to represent our country at the Olympic Games. The parade will also say thanks to the countless volunteers and support staff who have helped the team throughout the games and also acknowledge the role of families and friends.

I would like to thank the Australian Olympic Committee and Fitness First, as the official presenting partner, for bringing the team to Brisbane. It will be a great celebration, and I encourage all Queenslanders to come out in their green and gold to pay tribute to our athletes.