




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MAJOR EVENTS BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (8.47 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Major Events Bill. First of all, I would like to open by thanking the secretariat for the professional way in which they managed this particular bill. I also thank them for all of the work that they do for the committee. I would like to also thank those who provided the feedback in the witness statements and in the conversations that we had with them. It was very enlightening. It certainly gave us a good understanding of where various issues might lie. I also thank the chair for his guidance and professionalism. I was late coming to this committee; I have been on the committee since June. He has certainly been giving me some guidance on working through the various issues that we have on our plate. There certainly is a lot of work for this particular committee. I also thank Minister Stuckey for supporting most of the recommendations, and they were very sensible recommendations that we made. I say thank you for explaining those points of clarification so completely for us. We now thoroughly understand all of the issues that were raised.

The bill meets a commitment made by this government to host the 2015 AFC Asian Cup—that is the soccer—and the 2018 Commonwealth Games. We also have the V8 Supercars on the Gold Coast, and I spent a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon down there—I must say that I can only take so much of that stuff and I did not have any earplugs, so that was a bit of a worry—just to get a sense of what these major events are all about and how things could really go pear-shaped if we did not have the right type of security in place. As I entered the facility I took particular note of the type of security that we had in the area. This bill will cut red tape and regulatory duplication as well. I think it is incredibly important that we keep on keeping on. We have made a commitment as a government to reduce red tape by 20 per cent over a period of years. I note that we are removing approximately 100 pages from the Queensland statute books as a result of this particular bill. It is not more work for people; it is less work for people. I think that is incredibly important.

It is interesting that the member for Burleigh brought up the fact that there are 1,254 days until the Commonwealth Games, because there is that number 54 again. Members would know that exit 54 is a major issue in the state seat of Coomera, so it is just coincidental that today we are debating the bill and there are 1,254 days until the Commonwealth Games. The reason I make the point about exit 54 is because exit 54 is the main conduit to the brand spanking new Coomera indoor sports stadium, a multipurpose \$40 million stadium that will be a legacy for the Gold Coast and something that is truly appreciated. Exit 54 needs to be upgraded so that we can make sure that we do have appropriate access to that magnificent stadium once it is built.

May I say that right next door to that magnificent stadium we are going to have the home base of the Titans. The Gold Coast Titans are moving right next door. I am looking forward to meeting with the Titans' hierarchy next week to have a bit of a chinwag about what their plans are for the Titans in the Coomera electorate, and I welcome them with open arms. It really is going to be an amazing

facility: you have the indoor sports complex, the Titans' home base is right there and of course we already have many other facilities in place in that particular region.

I am not going to go through all of the points that my able colleagues have gone through in relation to the various recommendations that we made because there is no real need for me to do that. I do make the point that the Coomera electorate, where the new stadium is going to be built just down the road from exit 54, has around about 320 days of sunshine every year, so you can really appreciate the fact that the Coomera electorate is certainly where heaven meets earth when it comes to a place to live, work and play.

I commend the minister for bringing this bill to the House. I thank all of those who have been involved in the progress of the bill through the House and I certainly support the bill.