




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rio Olympic Games, Welcome-Home Parade

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): Queenslanders will be given the opportunity to cheer on the returning Olympic athletes at Australia's only public welcome-home parade tomorrow in Brisbane. Co-hosted by the Queensland government and Brisbane City Council, the parade will commence at 12 noon through the Queen Street Mall. I know that everyone in this House will join with me to congratulate our inspiring returning Olympians, and what better place to celebrate than right here in Queensland.

Queenslanders have truly done us proud on sport's biggest stage: the Campbell sisters and Brittany Elmslie; Emma McKeon, Ryan Tyack and Taylor Worth; Dane Bird-Smith and of course Anna Meares. The women's Sevens Rugby team won the first ever women's Rugby Sevens gold medal, with around half of the team hailing from Queensland. Importantly, Queenslanders accounted for a large percentage of Australia's overall medal count and are truly deserving of a public welcome home parade.

I am so proud of our Queenslanders' efforts, and I encourage the public to come out and welcome them back home to the best state. It is the perfect way to encourage our athletes to keep the dream alive for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. I encourage those who can to sport their best green and gold colours and to show their support to our returning athletes. They are our greatest role models. The Brisbane parade through the Queen Street Mall will culminate in a public meet and greet in King George Square, where fans will be able to meet their Queensland Olympic heroes and congratulate them. Let's show them a warm Queensland welcome!