




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (5.52 pm): I am pleased to support this bill, which has particular relevance to the community I represent. Suncorp Stadium in my electorate is Queensland's best sport and entertainment venue. It may even be the world's best venue. Last year, 1.3 million people attended more than 50 events hosted at Suncorp, contributing valuable dollars to the Queensland economy. On average, 1,400 people, from security to catering, work to deliver an event. Last year, 1.3 million beers were drunk at Suncorp Stadium at these events.

Embedded in the stadium is the Lang Park PCYC, which has a long and proud history of serving young people in our community. They run an awesome program for preschool kids. I should know as it is well loved by my three children, Sam, Aidan and now Bridie. Let me take this chance to thank the PCYC committee for their hard work and ongoing efforts.

The community I am proud to represent is pleased to host the Brisbane Roar, Queensland Reds, Brisbane Broncos, the mighty Queensland Maroons, the Wallabies and the Kangaroos every year, as well as an increasing number of international music acts like Taylor Swift, Coldplay and Justin Bieber. While some events can be scheduled months in advance, others need to be organised quickly. For example, at the end of the NRL season if the Broncos make the finals, Alan, Greg, Jessica and the team at Suncorp could have less than a week to organise an event. The only thing better than watching the Broncos play a final is watching them do it at Suncorp Stadium. I am sure even those opposite could agree with me on that.

The bill we are discussing today amends the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to ensure its provisions can apply even when events are organised at short notice. Of course, tens of thousands of people surging into a suburb has an unavoidable community impact. While we discuss this bill, I want to acknowledge the efforts of the Stadium Management Advisory Committee who work hard to make sure those impacts are minimised. Since being elected I have worked with the Paddington traders and local residents to address their concerns. Many of those relate to the parking restrictions administered by the Brisbane City Council, and I continue to support local businesses in seeking changes to the parking arrangements to ensure their business continuity. I want to thank Bill Concannon from Mary Ryan's Bookshop, Lynne Brown from the Inner West Chamber of Commerce, Anne Boccabella, Liza Devlin, Sarosh Mehta and the Petrie Terrace Residents Association for working with me to ensure that council addresses those concerns.

Today we welcome another fantastic business to Caxton Street, the GreenHill Bar. Unfortunately, the parliamentary schedule has precluded me from attending the opening tonight. However, I would like to congratulate and welcome Geordie and the GreenHill Bar team. In keeping with the historic nature of Caxton Street, the GreenHill Bar takes its name from the infamous Green Hills jail that housed Brisbane's most wanted in the 1800s. I would encourage all members to stop in there or at one of our other great bars and restaurants next time they head to an event at Suncorp.

As I mentioned, one of the regular hirers of the stadium is a local footy club in my electorate, the Brisbane Broncos. This bill also makes amendments to the Land Act 1994, which will support the development of the new Broncos training and community facility at Red Hill. The Broncos do so much in our local community and throughout Queensland. I am pleased they have recommitted to Red Hill as their home. Last week at the end-of-season presentation ball I, along with the education minister, was pleased to recognise the team's achievements this year. While our premiership hopes fell heartbreakingly short, the Broncos's community work is really second to none. Every year, the Broncos team saves lives and changes lives. This year they coached 50,000 children in clinics and in the 20 competitions they organised. They also mentored 700 Indigenous students—young boys and girls—using the power of Rugby League to motivate them to commit to their education.

The Palaszczuk government is especially pleased to partner with the Broncos on their Deadly Choices campaign, a program for which I know the health minister is a strong advocate. Together, we can and will bridge the gap in life expectancy in Indigenous communities, inspiring Indigenous Queenslanders to eat healthier and make healthier lifestyle choices. The partnership between the Broncos and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health is incredibly valuable. Their work with Indigenous Queenslanders made them a finalist for the Premier's Reconciliation Award this year, an award they won last year.

Honourable members can see that the Broncos make a very valuable contribution to our local community. On behalf of our local community I congratulate Paul White, Dennis Watt and the players and staff on their achievements. I am sure I am joined by everyone in the House in wishing outgoing captain Corey Parker all the best in his post-football career.

We are all excited that this time next year the Broncos will have not only the premiership trophy but also a new headquarters to keep it in. This bill facilitates the development of this new headquarters in the heart of Red Hill. While I think the decision of the Newman government to close the Ithaca TAFE was deplorable, I am pleased that this government has ensured that my community will have access to the new training field and many of the facilities of the new headquarters. I commend the bill to the House.