




Speech By
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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Sport

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.36 pm): It is no secret that here in Queensland we take our sport very seriously—everyone, it seems, except the Palaszczuk Labor government and its sport minister, who only seem to like the photo opportunities and spruiking in this place about the successes of our sporting stars.

Within the first two months of this year Labor has proven that, whether it is club performance or attracting sporting events, it does not have a clue when it comes to the Sport portfolio. In fact, in January the Gabba was completely overlooked for the 2020 women's T20 World Cup whilst it will host just four matches in the men's cup. The Labor government failed so badly at attracting T20 World Cup games that Manuka Oval in Canberra is getting five games, Kardinia Park in Geelong six games, Bellerive in Hobart eight games and Sydney 14 games—all favoured over Brisbane. The fact is Brisbane will host the fewest tournament games in the country. It is an embarrassment, and even this week Queensland Cricket talked about moving some of its shield games to the Allan Border Field where it needs some help with funding to improve drainage.

The minister is quoted as saying, 'We don't fund private infrastructure.' I am interested in finding out whether any of those other ovals in other places have been funded by state governments. We have heard a lot of talk but we do not see a lot of action from those opposite when it comes to supporting women in sport. In fact, the minister did not even bother to front up to the media to talk about the fact that the Gabba was snubbed for the women's T20 World Cup. This is great on International Women's Day, isn't it? He left it to the member for Gaven, and her response was just ridiculous. I quote from a *Courier-Mail* article of 30 January 2018 written by Robert Craddock, and I table a copy of it.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 30 January 2018, titled '2020 World T20: Geelong, Canberra and Hobart all rate higher than the Gabba as venues' [304](#).

The article states—

Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development, Meaghan Scanlon, tried to dress mutton up as lamb at a shallow, unconvincing press conference on Tuesday by urging Queensland fans to support the women's trial games because 'it is really important to know we are supporting women in sport.'

When you are reduced to spruiking trial matches you really have hit the bottom of the barrel.

The article goes on to describe the bidding process as 'timid', and I think that is putting it nicely. Then the minister fronted up for an interview on 8 February on 4BC to talk about stadiums and infrastructure in Queensland. I was keen to hear from the minister about how he plans to promote, support and enhance our sports teams and venues, but the minister started a bizarre rant about how he would not consider a boutique stadium for women's football in Queensland because he thought the Brisbane Roar men's team is underperforming.

The women's team has won three premierships. Either the minister is being sexist on International Women's Day by disregarding the hard work of the championship winning women's team, or the men's team is not performing to his standards, or he is not across his portfolio. It is a sad reality for sports fans and players alike when this important portfolio is crumbling under this Labor minister. Kate Jones said that the Gabba was the best place in the world to watch cricket. James Sutherland, the CEO of Cricket Australia, said that it was fifth best in Australia.

(Time expired)