




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.41 pm): This inquiry started in late 2018 and we reported on it in November last year. It is fairly straightforward: a self-referred inquiry and report so I will not bang on too long about it and I will not compete with the chair and his knowledge of the electricity network and history of the site, including *Scooby-Doo*—that was good to know—or the member for Chatsworth and his tennis background. Thank to you the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, committee members and secretariat as always for their great work on this inquiry, and in particular the Queensland Tennis Centre for showing us around their fantastic facilities and for being very helpful with every step of the inquiry process and also to Stadiums Queensland and Tennis Queensland.

The tennis centre is a fantastic site. It has an electric atmosphere on big nights, providing power of a different kind. It is a great venue for those showpiece events but it is also focusing on the development of up-and-coming tennis players and up-and-coming stars of the sport. Not often do you see grassroots roots right next door to the showpiece exhibition centre. It is great to see the good work they are doing there. It has been made possible by the infrastructure works that were catalysed in the Beattie government years. The attention to detail at the Queensland Tennis Centre is great. They have a professional hawk that chases off the other birds from the site. It was great to see some of that.

Turning to the report, the terms of reference of the inquiry that I was most interested in were about the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for purpose, the necessity for and advisability of the works and the value for money achieved or likely to be achieved by the works. Throughout the inquiry we found that the works were very well constructed and it was done to a suitable level. The flood that came through in 2011 was a more than one-in-100-year flood and really knocked them for six—to mix up my sporting metaphors. It was built to a Q100 of 7.9 metres height but the floodwater got up to 8.6 metres. As anyone who was around at that time would know, that area of Brisbane really did get hit very hard and it had a longstanding effect on residences. The tennis centre has carried out improvements since then and it was interesting to see the different ways it will manage flood in the future. It used the opportunity of rebuilding after the floods to dramatically improve the centre's use going forward, dramatically improving the facilities for the development of future players and also when there are showpiece events. I commend the committee's report to the House.