



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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**TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.32 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee Report No. 31, 56th Parliament—*Inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre* tabled on 28 November 2019.

Before I outline the committee's considerations and findings in this inquiry, I first want to thank the members of the committee, representatives from the Department of Housing and Public Works, Tennis Queensland, Stadiums Queensland and the Parliamentary Service staff. I also want to share a little bit of history about this site for those who are unfamiliar with it. In the late 1940s Brisbane's then power supply was reaching capacity. This particular site, now the proud home of Queensland tennis, was acquired by council and the Tennyson Power Station commissioned. The coal-fired power station operated from the fifties to the eighties. In fact, I have a unique connection to this site because I used to work there in a past life as an electrician of 25 years—and I still have my licence, too, by the way.

In the sixties responsibilities for power generation and supply were transferred to the state government and, after the amalgamation of the electricity authorities in 1985, the newly created Queensland Electricity Commission recommended the closure of the Tennyson Power Station. This is where my involvement came into play, as we had to disconnect Tennyson from the network once it was decommissioned which was a very interesting job as it still fed a large part of Brisbane from the switchyard there. Challenges around asbestos management delayed demolition on site until the mid-2000s.

In the meantime, members might be interested to know that the old power station featured in the 2002 movie *Scooby-Doo*, the local filming of which was certainly a coup for Queensland. The history of the power station will not be lost as there are a lot of historical displays of items from the station around the site and the new substation overlooks the site. I can certainly attest to how well our dirty old power station site has been repurposed to service our sporting community and local residents.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the Brisbane International at the Queensland Tennis Centre this year—and in the past I have been there with the member for Chatsworth, who is also a tennis lover—although sadly I did miss out on seeing Ash Barty play this year. It was easy to see why this international event generates almost \$10 million in direct economic benefits to Queensland. The atmosphere was electric—pardon the dad joke—and the venue world class. I thank Tennis Queensland for its submission to our inquiry, describing the building of the Queensland Tennis Centre as 'a stimulant for the revitalisation of our sport'. The turnout and enthusiasm for competitions hosted at the centre is certainly evidence of this, as is the upsurge in player numbers across Brisbane and Queensland that we have witnessed in the 10 years of the centre's existence.

Determining the demand or necessity for these works in Brisbane for tennis facilities of international standard was a key line of inquiry for the committee, as was the question of whether works were and are suitable for the purpose. The committee was tasked to examine the financial aspects of

the works including the cost and quality, whether they achieved value for money, recurrent revenue versus recurrent costs, and the present and prospective public value of the works having due regard for impacts on the community, economy and environment. In addition, the scope of our inquiry encompassed procurement methods for the project, the performance of the constructing authority, and whether the balance of public and private sector involvement was right.

An overlying theme in considering the suitability of the works was the 2011 floods, which resulted in damage on site—and we remember all too clearly the devastation and destruction these flood events caused right across Central and Southern Queensland and the tragic loss of lives. The committee considered the evidence given to and the findings of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry with regard to the Tennyson site. While the committee is satisfied that the Queensland Tennis Centre works were and are suitable for purpose, our report notes that learnings from the 2011 floods have resulted in further mitigation strategies that will contribute to a reduced risk of flood impact in the future.

In conclusion, I will sum up by outlining the committee's conclusions. In this inquiry we found that the tennis centre was delivered on time and on budget; completed to specifications with only minor modifications; necessary, advisable and suitable for purpose; reasonable value for money, including in its recurrent costs and revenue; and subject to a suitable procurement process with a satisfactory balance of public and private sector involvement. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we found that this work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment. In light of our findings, I want to pay tribute to the then Beattie Labor government for its contribution to Queensland sport. I commend this report to the parliament.