




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.37 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise this afternoon to make my contribution in relation to the inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre. So far this afternoon we have heard some fantastic backstories from previous speakers. I cannot beat being a former mayor, I cannot beat being a paramedic of 30 years and I certainly cannot beat being a sparky of 25 years, but around about 30 years ago I was the winner of the 1979 Carindale Tennis Open. I do take a lot of pride in saying that before the House.

Before I get into some commentary specifically about the report, I want to take this opportunity to thank committee members but single one out in particular because he will be retiring at the next election—that is, my colleague Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay. With Ted being one of the members of this committee, I want to acknowledge his contribution in not just this report but the various reports that have come before this one.

Having a business background, I wanted to have a good read of this report, so to begin with I read the scope of the inquiry. I think it is worthwhile just going through exactly what the scoping of this particular report was all about. With regard to the scope of the inquiry, the purpose of the works were apparent in relation to the suitability of the works to be fit for purpose, the necessity for and the advisability of the works, value for money achieved or likely to be achieved by the works, the revenue produced by and recurrent costs of the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works, the present and prospective public value of the works, the procurement methods for the works, the balance of public and private sector involvement, and the performance of the constructing authority for the works and the consultants and contractors for the works.

As the chair of the committee has gone through, but it is worthwhile going through again, the committee did conclude that the work was indeed suitable for its purpose and the work was, in fact, necessary and advisable and, indeed, reasonable value for money. The committee found that the procurement method for the work was, indeed, suitable and the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work was, indeed, satisfactory.

Being a long-term resident of Brisbane, and also declaring on my interest register that I have also been given the pleasure of attending the Brisbane International on and off over the last few years—and we certainly look forward to when competition and play will be able to resume, hopefully in the not-too-distant future in this uncertain world that we live in—I know, and anyone who has graced that particular tennis centre will know, that it is right up there with the best for its size. I believe I read it has a circa 5,500 capacity. A bit like Suncorp Stadium, there is not a bad seat in the stadium to watch the tennis live. It really is magnificent.

Interestingly, I went on to read in the report that there were lessons learned from the 2011 floods. It is a credit and a tribute to all those concerned. I did read that the contractor, Mirvac, was given a rap in terms of making sure this was delivered on time and on the adjusted budget. In this day and age of

delivering infrastructure like stadia that is, indeed, great. This was an interesting report to go through. Being a tennis fan I found it interesting. I thank the committee members for the work they did. Here is to ensuring that tennis in this great state continues to blossom.

I also put in a quick plug for the different officials who liaise with the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis. Many of us partake in a game on the Speaker's Green once a year. I particularly call out government liaison officer Elia Hill, who many on both sides of the chamber would know, and the other great men and women of Tennis Queensland who make sure that tennis is front and centre in the minds of politicians on both sides of the chamber. It is a great game and I am very pleased to make a small contribution to the committee report.