




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.53 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The primary objectives of the bill are: to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and to establish a board of directors of the corporation to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

As the House is aware, Brisbane was elected as the host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 2021 following a majority vote of the IOC members at the 138th IOC session. On the same day the Premier, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council and the president of the Australian Olympic Committee executed the Olympic host contract with the IOC.

The effort to secure the games was a testament to all the parties that banded together and showed great tenacity to go and win the rights to host the world's biggest multisport event and bring the games to our shores in 2032. The solidarity shown by all parties clearly displayed what can be achieved when politics is put on the backburner and the interests of Queenslanders are put first. The passion and determination shown in securing the games were evident to the people of Queensland and more so to the IOC when they made the determination to grant the games to Brisbane. I have no doubt that this collective drive would have been the determining factor that gave the IOC the confidence that Brisbane 2032 could do the job.

This bill sets out the requirements in the Olympic host contract. Under the Olympic host contract, the IOC entrusts the state of Queensland, Brisbane City Council and Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging of the Brisbane 2032 games in accordance with the terms of the Olympic host contract and the IOC's Olympic charter. The Olympic host contract requires that within five months following the execution of the Olympic host contract—by 21 December 2021— or at a later date agreed to by all signatories of the Olympic host contract, the host must form an organising committee as an entity endowed with legal personality under the laws of the host country and in such a manner as to provide for maximum efficiency with respect to its operations and its rights and obligations under the Olympic host contract. The Olympic host contract also requires that certain persons be members of the organising committee's highest executive board with full voting rights.

The Economics and Governance Committee tabled report No. 20, which details the extensive deliberations of the EGC and clearly articulates that the impacts of the awarding of the games to Brisbane will be felt not only for the immediate period leading up to the games but for at least a decade after as Queenslanders go about charming people from across the world and from many walks of life and experience to make Brisbane and Queensland their home for the duration of the lead-up and after the games are complete.

Being a regional member in this parliament, I believe the awarding of the 2032 games will have a significant economic impact by providing regional communities surrounding Brisbane and the various event locations with the opportunity to tap into the sustainable development of infrastructure and the vast array of economic activities that come from the flow-on effects of downstream merchandising and the supply chain demands that will come from having many hundreds of thousands of participants, officials, volunteers and visitors all requiring various levels of service, let alone the cultural interchange that will come from having the many and varied sporting countries arriving in Queensland for the games. This cultural exchange will also leave a significant impact on maturing relationships between our state and many countries far and wide. The opportunity for business growth leading up to and off the back of the games will be enormous and will drive our state economy for the decade and beyond as businesses try to enhance their market share by putting themselves front and centre on the world stage and either move or enhance their facilities to capture more market share.

In accordance with the requirements of the Olympic host contract, the bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. The board of directors will be made up of the president or honorary life president of the Australian Olympic Committee, the president of Paralympics Australia, any active members of the International Olympic Committee residing in Australia, any members of the International Paralympic Committee residing in Australia, the chief executive officer of the AOC, a recent Olympic and a recent Paralympic athlete confirmed by their respective athletes commissions, five independent directors nominated by the minister with the consent of the Prime Minister, up to four persons nominated by the Prime Minister, four persons nominated by the Premier, one person nominated by the Lord Mayor, and the Lord Mayor. The size of this board of directors is similar in size to the board for the Sydney 2000 Organising Committee, which was 15 strong, and for the London 2012 games, which had 18 in number. The Brisbane 2032 board will be less than half the size of the Tokyo 2020 committee board, which was 45 in size at any given time.

To facilitate participation of elected representatives on the board, the bill contains special disclosure-of-interest requirements and provisions dealing with confidential information. For the athletes and youth of our state and across the country, when this announcement was made you could see for many the inspiring vision in their eyes as they realised that their Olympic dream could one day be realised by participating in an Olympic Games in front of their nation at home. I have no doubt that among those inspiring athletes the next Cathy Freeman or a squad member of one of our great teams like the Boomers or the Matildas or the Hockeyroos will emerge to drive our nation to gold. The legacy of the games will be significant. Once the 2032 Olympics are over, Brisbane and Queensland will have the legacy of having some of the best world-class sporting facilities and cutting-edge sporting technologies all in place to keep our nation and state athletes at the forefront of world sporting achievements for many years to come.