




Speech By  
**Ali King**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

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### **BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.19 pm): I rise in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. We are on the brink of a new golden age for Queensland and it is a wonderful moment to be part of as a legislator and a member of this place. Representing an electorate in Moreton Bay, with its fast-developing regional identity and its growing regional economy, I know that the transformative potential of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032 is hugely exciting.

I find myself unexpectedly in agreement with the LNP's statement of reservation to the committee report: the promise of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is indeed all about creating a legacy of infrastructure and tourism, although why that was offered as a matter of reservation is perhaps difficult to say.

For us in Pumicestone that legacy of infrastructure and tourism is just enormously important. Our Palaszczuk government is unashamedly an infrastructure government, from Cross River Rail to our Bruce Highway upgrades to our endless and consistent upgrades to the Bribie Island Road, and this next decade will see that accelerate even further. We are not talking about the oversized stadiums like the Olympics of the bad old days of past decades. Instead, we talking about the kinds of infrastructure our communities need and value most—that is, transport infrastructure and flexible community infrastructure and tourism infrastructure.

Since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has been on an infrastructure pathway and those infrastructure investments are now paying off. Cross River Rail may not have begun with the Olympics in mind, but as the Premier noted earlier today it was a beneficial part of our successful bid and will have significant ongoing legacy benefits for our rail services all the way to northern Moreton Bay and far beyond. The Bruce Highway has seen hundreds of millions of dollars in investment from our state Labor government as well as, I acknowledge, from the federal government. Unlike the member for Glass House though, I do not credit the current member for Longman with much advocacy in that space. He is struggling to convince anybody about much of anything. The western alternative to the Bruce Highway has seen planning and consultation begin, and that work will be crucial to creating a more connected regional network as we head towards 2032 and will be very much welcomed, while the Sunshine Coast rail duplication has also commenced along with record road spending across the north coast region and up to the Sunshine Coast. Long after the games are over, we will be celebrating the pipeline of transport and community infrastructure that the next decade will bring.

We are a jobs government, and getting ready for the games will provide a local jobs pay-off for our region as we recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19. Foresight and planning helped us win the Olympic and Paralympic Games bid, foresight and planning for our strong health response protected us from the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and foresight and planning will make sure that our Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivers the best possible outcomes for Brisbane, for fast-growing areas of the south-east like Moreton Bay and right across the length and breadth of Queensland.

Queensland is absolutely the place to be when it comes to tourism, and the Olympics will showcase our state and my particular part of our Moreton Bay region like never before. Pumicestone is perfectly positioned to benefit from the tourism potential of the games. We have so much to offer in terms of the natural beauty of our national parks and the Pumicestone Passage and potential for new cultural and ecotourism experiences, and we are ideally positioned to be the gateway between the Brisbane and Sunshine Coast games precincts. Of course the greater Moreton Bay region has its own Olympic and Paralympic events to look forward to, with the new \$85 million indoor sports centre at The Mill at Petrie set to host the boxing. This brand new community facility will create a community and infrastructure legacy for the whole of Moreton Bay that will be used into the future to host indoor sports, exhibitions, trade shows, festivals, community events and much more.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms KING:** I feel the same, member. Our area will be well placed for national and international visitors and athletes attending the boxing or simply travelling between events in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast to stop in and enjoy the beauties of northern Moreton Bay and Pumicestone or stay on afterwards.

More important though is the horizon of hope and opportunity the games creates for young people right across Queensland to imagine themselves as future Olympians. I recently attended the end-of-year service and year 6 graduation ceremony at St Michael's College Caboolture, a school I was proud to, at one time, serve on the board of, and was really moved to hear from Kirra Nicholls, one of the school captains. Kirra is a young equestrian who also happens to live with cystic fibrosis, and she spoke at length about what she has learned from managing her illness while competing at a really impressive elite level in showjumping, dressage and other equestrian events. It was so moving to hear Kirra speak about her Olympic aspirations to represent Australia at the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, knowing that equestrian in particular is a sport where there are many barriers to international representation, particularly around cost and transporting horses across international borders. Our Olympic vision has opened that door for Kirra and so many other young people across Queensland, and I cannot wait to see what they achieve as we work towards 2032.

I am a strong advocate for QSEC, the wonderfully equipped Queensland State Equestrian Centre, that is located at Caboolture and I would love to see it included as a venue, whether for training or preparation or perhaps as an additional competition venue if needed. That would certainly give Kirra and her fellow young equestrians in my region and the member for Glass House a big boost.

This bill creates the structure for the planning and delivery of the games, and the opportunities to maximise diversity and representation in that structure have been well and truly grasped. I welcome the announcement of the 2032 athlete representatives to the board. Bronte Barratt, a Brisbane-born four-time Olympic swimming medallist, was chosen by her athlete peers as their representative, while wheelchair-racing great and three-time Paralympic gold medallist Kurt Fearnley was voted by Paralympics Australia's Athlete Commission as its choice. Kurt Fearnley is a staunch advocate for inclusion, diversity and the rights of people with a disability and he said—

... the transformational effects of an Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Australia can be profound, not just in a sporting context. I can't think of a greater global showcase of diversity and inclusion than the Paralympic Games.

I could not agree more. I am glad to see the representation requirements set by this legislation for the board. Our games will be better and more representative by the equal inclusion of women and ensuring that First Nations Queenslanders also have a strong voice.

Turning to the committee report, I note that the federal government stipulated that any federal government representative be exempt from the Crime and Corruption Act. The government's amendment specifically outlines the remit of the exemption, but it is not clear to me why the federal LNP feels it necessary to exempt federal members of parliament. Sometimes it appears that the guilty flee where no man or woman pursue. The opposition's statement of reservation was quite insistent on the need for increased accountability and transparency in this legislation, but it does seem to have been strangely silent on this key point.

I also note the comments of the member for South Brisbane in the committee report and her submission where she objected to the use of Raymond Park as a warm-up venue for the Gabba venue, I believe it was. Sporting Wheelies in its submission made it clear that the warm-up area for greatest impact for diversity and inclusion must be close to competition venues and that more distantly located warm-up venues actually provide an example of unconscious bias in that they add additional challenges to the participation of athletes who have disability or other complex needs. I found it disappointing that the member for South Brisbane, in her objections to the use of Raymond Park, did not take into account the needs of Paralympians and other athletes with complex needs. I do, though, welcome the

community consultation framework that was announced by the Premier that will ensure local residents in the areas closest to the venues have a strong voice and are able to express the impacts that the games will have on them and their neighbourhoods.

When I think about Queenslanders and their absolute love of sport, and I think of the statistic that we have heard many times during this debate that if Queensland were a country in its own right it would have been seventh in the Olympic medal rankings at the most recent Olympic Games, I know that the excitement and opportunity that we all feel in this place will only build and grow in the community not only as the Olympics and Paralympics come closer but as we see further and more infrastructure projects and planning delivered within the community. I look forward to being part of that for as long as I am the member for Pumicestone.

In closing, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are great news for Brisbane, they are great news for Moreton Bay, for the whole of South-East Queensland, the whole of Queensland and the whole of Australia. I commend the bill to the House.