




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.36 pm): London, Rio, Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles and then Brisbane. The 2023 Olympics will be an amazing event in the history of this great state. I am very pleased to be speaking on the bill that will allow for the establishment of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games organising committee. The bill establishes the corporation as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. The size of the board will be approximately 20 members, which will be similar to the size of the Sydney 2000 board which had 15, the London 2012 board which had 18, but less than half the size of the delayed Tokyo Games board which had 45 members. There are provisions around those appointments, including that elected members are there at the behest of the government in power at that point in time.

There are also provisions in this bill to ensure that the Queensland Procurement Policy will apply to the corporation to the extent that it is consistent with the Olympics host contract. That is welcome, as it means that the goods and services procured will, to as great an extent as possible, comply with measures such as: maximising opportunities for Queensland suppliers to participate; workplace health and safety systems and standards; commitment to apprentices and trainees; best practice industrial relations; and compliance with tendering and other best practice government policy. This is great to see, as some recent and upcoming international sporting events have had pretty bad records when it comes to workplace health and safety in particular, something that we will not see in the Brisbane Olympics.

The economic opportunities from these games will be substantial for our state. Over the next 20 years the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are forecast to generate massive economic benefits. This includes increased international tourism and trade estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland, more than 91,000 FTE jobs in Queensland, and a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities and legacy projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come. The games will truly be a games for all Queenslanders. It will trigger increased investment and opportunities that will: benefit our regions through industry investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains, attraction of major sporting events and training pre and post games; and investment in renewable energies to deliver a climate-positive games.

It is not just the big venues in the centre of town that will benefit from these games; it is the flow-on effect for every sporting organisation wanting to train the next Olympian and every youngster wanting to be an Olympian in their hometown Olympics. A good example locally of a venue that will indirectly benefit is the Craigslea Volleyball Centre of Excellence we are building at Craigslea State High School. Since 2017 I have worked with the school community on this. I was very pleased that before the last election the Premier and the Treasurer were able to give us a commitment to build it. We are working through the planning phase at the moment. I want to make this as great an opportunity as possible to really be a home for volleyball in Queensland. Craigslea is currently the No. 1 high school for volleyball in Queensland, outcompeting far better resourced non-government schools. I am certain that members of our men's and women's teams and/or our beach volleyball pairs for the 2023 games will come from Craigslea.

The legacy infrastructure and legacy works will be the enduring benefits that Brisbane and Queensland will get from the games. While talking locally about sporting organisations, I know that Aspley Little Athletics is very excited about the Olympics. Like the member for Stafford I acknowledge Cedric Dubler, who most famously willed on his mate Ash Moloney to win a bronze medal in the decathlon event in Tokyo and is an alumnus of Aspley Little Athletics.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MELLISH: I do not take the interjections from the member for Logan, who is standing up for his own. There are too many fantastic swim clubs in the Aspley electorate to mention, but I am sure that there are future Olympians and Paralympians in their ranks right now. We also have many fantastic local clubs in team sports that will play a part in the 2032 Olympics and I do not have time to mention all of those either.

Going back to the games more broadly, in 1982 the Commonwealth Games opened up Brisbane to the world. Expo 88 liberated South Bank and transformed it into a cultural hub of the state. The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gave us great sporting infrastructure as well as light rail, making the Gold Coast a better connected region now and well into the future. The Brisbane Olympics will revolutionise our city. Cross River Rail will make the south side and the north side closer than ever before. We will be able to go quickly from Lang Park to the new indoor venue above Roma Street station and on to the Gabba in minutes, as it will link three major venues and precincts right in the heart of our city. South Bank, Hamilton North Shore and other places will be energised by fantastic venues, not just for the games but also for long afterwards.

I was fortunate enough, as a bright-eyed 17-year-old, to travel to Sydney for the 2000 Olympics. I have many great memories of those games: the energy of the Homebush precinct; Cathy Freeman winning with the weight of two worlds on her shoulders; seeing the 100-metre final with over 100,000 others; getting a photo with Andrew Vlahov at the basketball; and many other great memories. I have other memories of those games, such as waiting at Central Station in Sydney for over an hour for a train to Homebush, which of course is a precinct on a spur line well away from the centre of town. I remember travelling to one event by train and thinking that we had missed our stop. After a three-hour journey from Sydney, still we had not arrived at the venue in Penrith. We can be sure that the Brisbane Olympics will learn from lessons such as those and be even bigger and better. They will be held right in the heart of the city, on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast as well as other regional venues. Those will be fantastic locations that we will showcase to the world.

I note from the committee's report on the bill that the committee makes seven recommendations, six of which are supported and recommendation No. 7 is agreed to in principle. I congratulate the committee for their great work on this bill within the necessary time lines and for making constructive contributions. Particular thanks go to the chair. I also note the opposition's statement of reservation, which states that our state must—

- Build infrastructure required to deliver the games which can leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders. It's critical that Queensland's investment leaves a lasting and meaningful infrastructure footprint.

I could not agree more, but that goes against what they were arguing this morning in question time, which is a bit bizarre. It also goes against their track record when it comes to major infrastructure. As I mentioned earlier, Cross River Rail will revolutionise Brisbane and the south-east in terms of public transport, but they opposed the project every step of the way. They actually rejected money for that project. Treasurer Wayne Swan had almost \$1 billion in construction money and the LNP rejected it. They wanted to push the widely discredited BaT tunnel as an alternative. What a joke! The same goes for light rail on the Gold Coast. They were opposed to it until they could see the benefits. It was the same story for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games: they sought legal advice about cancelling it. I know they did not want the Premier to go to Tokyo this year to secure the Olympics. They would have been happy for the Premier to stay at home and for us to lose the Olympics bid. Queensland can be thankful that the Premier did not listen to those opposite on that occasion and all others.

I note briefly the amendments proposed by the member for South Brisbane. Normally one would welcome contributions from minor parties wanting to improve bills before the House, but unfortunately it is hard to compliment these amendments. The amendments of the member for South Brisbane are essentially about making it a requirement that someone from her electorate is appointed to the organising committee. There are many fantastic local community groups and local community champions in my electorate, but I am not going to suggest that the bill be amended so that it is a requirement that one of them be on the organising committee. Of course the Olympics will impact that particular area; it will affect every electorate in Queensland in some way. I am sure that we would all love to have a local director on the committee, but you cannot have a central organising committee with over 100 members and expect it to function properly—although maybe the Greens think that you can.

I absolutely support this bill and what it will achieve. In Brisbane 22 venues will be used. There will be six venues on the Gold Coast, four on the Sunshine Coast and venues in Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba as well as a couple of interstate venues for preliminary games. Six new venues will be developed for hosting competitions and eight existing venues will receive major upgrades. I look forward to those direct and other indirect impacts from the Olympics. I commend the bill to the House.