




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to address the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, a bill which seeks to provide the administrative foundation that will deliver a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

Successfully bidding to host the games in 2032 is a significant milestone in Queensland's history. I would like to congratulate all of those involved in delivering this opportunity for Brisbane and for Queensland. I acknowledge that Brisbane's bid had the support of all three levels of government. Indeed, the bid had the support of both the state Labor Party and the state LNP. This rare display of bipartisanship across all levels of government is testament to the opportunity that the Olympics represents.

It is an opportunity to put Brisbane and Queensland on the world stage; an opportunity to deliver transformational infrastructure that would otherwise take many years to shuffle up the list of priorities; an opportunity for Queensland tourism and for trade; and an opportunity for young Australians to showcase their sporting talents to the world in front of a parochial home crowd.

Among the contributions of many, I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of former lord mayor Graham Quirk, whose vision was instrumental in sowing the seeds for a successful Brisbane Olympic Games bid and whose leadership was central in developing the necessary momentum.

I pay special tribute to my Sunshine Coast LNP colleague Ted O'Brien for his contribution to the successful bid. In his role as the Prime Minister's representative on the 2032 Olympic bid, Ted worked tirelessly to bring all levels of government together and to navigate the complex relationships and issues that sometimes come from the state government and threatened to derail the Olympic bid before it ever got off the ground. Ted's enthusiasm for the Olympics and the opportunity it represents has been on display for all.

For me, Ted's greatest legacy will be his relentless focus on using the Brisbane Olympics to deliver the infrastructure that South-East Queensland so desperately needs, such as reliable rail from the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane—rail that Labor promised would already be operating from Caloundra by 2015 and from Maroochydore by 2020 but that they have failed to deliver. The Sunshine Coast needs this rail infrastructure to support our rapidly growing population. Contained within the Brisbane 2032 pitch was a plan for heavy rail up the CAMCOS corridor from Beerwah to Maroochydore.

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you guys do it?

Mr MICKELBERG: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who said, 'Why didn't you guys do it?' I note that the minister is part of a government who have been in power for seven years. It has been seven years, and they still have not duplicated the train line to Landsborough, let alone built a train line to Maroochydore—a promise that Labor made in 2009 that they would build a train line to Caloundra by 2015.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): The member for Miller will cease his interjections.

Mr MICKELBERG: It was before I was even in parliament! Incidentally, they promised that they would build it to Maroochydore by 2020, which was last year. We still do not have any proposal, let alone a shovel in the ground. Better public transport is needed to help deliver a successful Olympic Games, but, even more so, it is needed to support the massive increase in population that the Sunshine Coast has and is expected to experience by 2032. Labor have ignored the Sunshine Coast for far too long, and it is my hope that the 2032 Olympics will deliver the infrastructure that Labor should have already built.

As the Minister for Training and Skills Development said, the games represents an opportunity to skill and train Queensland's workforce. Every Queensland employer knows how difficult it is to recruit skilled staff in areas such as construction and hospitality at the moment. Both of these industries will be essential to delivering a successful Olympic Games. Success in 2032 will require an investment in upskilling Queensland's workforce to ensure the current workforce challenges are not repeated. I acknowledge that the current challenges are in large part a consequence of unexpected responses to COVID-19, but a failure to plan for workforce needs and a failure to invest will mean that insufficient trained workers are available to fill the many roles that will be required to construct infrastructure in advance of the games and to deliver the games in 2032.

The time to invest is now so that Queensland has the workforce necessary to deliver a successful games. The games could be a tremendous opportunity to expose young Queenslanders to unique experiences and opportunities. It is a chance for Queensland to reimagine employment opportunities for every Queensland school student, and I look forward to the government delivering on that reality.

The last area I would like to address is that of small business procurement as it relates to the Olympic Games. We have heard much from those opposite in relation to the opportunity the games will provide for small business. Whether the reality matches the spin will be important. For small and family business to compete for Olympics related tenders, the state government need to make considerable changes to their current tendering processes. Small and family businesses need a simplified state government tender process, and tenders need to be broken down into smaller parcels so that Queensland's small and family businesses can compete. It is simpler and easier for the state government to deal with large companies as primes, but that approach frequently disadvantages Queensland's small and family businesses, and they deserve better.

The last of the issues around small business procurement that I would like to touch on today is the need for the state government to provide clear details about how small and family businesses can access Olympic procurement opportunities. As the CCIQ recently stated—

Now is the time for the Queensland government to share their plan for business so that they are able to prepare to effectively compete for procurement opportunities.

I call on the state government to provide that clarity for Queensland's small and family businesses as soon as possible.

In summary, the Olympics are a tremendous opportunity for all Queenslanders and they are a tremendous opportunity for Sunshine Coast residents. Brisbane 2032 will be an unparalleled opportunity to showcase our state to the world and it will be, more importantly for me, an opportunity to deliver the infrastructure that our growing south-east corner so desperately needs. It is for that reason that I will be supporting the bill.