




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.17 am): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. In doing so, I congratulate the Premier and Minister for the Olympics on her leadership and determination to ensure that this amazing international event will be held in Brisbane and Queensland and to showcase Brisbane and Queensland to the world. I also congratulate the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement for his determination and work ethic to make sure this amazing event will be held in our great state.

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 establish a board of directors of the corporation to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

Brisbane will be hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, making it the largest ever event staged in Queensland. On 21 July 2021 the historic announcement was made after a vote by International Olympic Committee members at their 138th International Olympic Committee Session in Tokyo. Hosting the world's greatest event will create a two-decade pipeline of opportunity for Queensland. The games will connect communities, improve health and fitness levels, encourage more people to join their local sporting clubs as participants or volunteers, and inspire a generation of children.

As a state that embraces sport wholeheartedly and thrives on overcoming challenges with world-class solutions, we are ready to welcome the world to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Brisbane 2032 will benefit communities, tourism operators, sporting organisations and local businesses right across Queensland, including in my electorate in Central Queensland. In fact, KPMG forecasts that the Brisbane 2032 games will generate \$8.1 billion in total benefits for Queensland and \$17.61 billion in total benefits for Australia, as well as over 91,000 Queensland full-time-equivalent jobs and 122,000 nationally. It will also create an uplift in international tourism and trade worth an estimated \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally. The KPMG report also forecasts social benefits of up to \$3.5 billion for Queensland and \$9.1 billion nationally through factors such as health benefits and volunteering benefits.

Importantly, these games are the Brisbane Queensland Olympic Games. I note the Premier's messaging and the way she is talking about these games being a games for all of Queensland. That is incredibly important for all regional members in this place. There has been some scepticism about the Olympics bid and its financial cost. However, I believe the games will be something that all Queenslanders will be proud of. It is a badge of honour for all of Australia to have the Olympic Games here in Queensland. Competition events and pre-games training camps will be held across the state, as Queensland's shores are opened up to new tourism, trade and investment opportunities around the world.

While I am on my feet, I would like to take this opportunity to invite Olympic and Paralympic athletes, teams, traders, investors and tourists to visit Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast. Consider Capricornia. There is no doubt that Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast will step up and play an important role in the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We have perfect weather, a strong Indigenous culture, friendly locals, high-quality accommodation, accessibility, a multicultural community and topnotch hospitality, food and professional health services. We have plenty of space, and our love for sport and competition makes Central Queensland the perfect place for pre-games training, manufacturing and investment. You want it? Well, baby, Central Queensland has got it.

Central Queensland already has strong sporting infrastructure opportunities, with the beautiful Southern Great Barrier Reef right on our doorstep, the vast and thriving Fitzroy River, the Kenrick Tucker Velodrome, the international standard Rockhampton hockey fields, the Barmaryee and Emu Park multisport facilities, and the southside and northside swimming pools—just to name a few. We also have the First Turkey Mountain Bike Park, which is one of my favourites.

Recently, the Australian rowing team chose the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton—part of the second largest catchment on the eastern seaboard, second only to the Murray-Darling Basin—to undertake their pre-games training ahead of the Tokyo Olympics. The Fitzroy River is one of five fully buoyed courses in Queensland and the only one fully owned and managed by the local council. It is incredibly rare to have a two-kilometre stretch of flat water to train on just five minutes from the CBD, hotels, food and entertainment precincts, and our international standard airport, which makes Rockhampton the perfect choice for Australian rowing ahead of Los Angeles, Paris and Brisbane 2032.

Central Queensland is already moving to establish a Central Queensland Olympic and Paralympic Games task force. We had our first meeting several weeks ago. I acknowledge Grant Cassidy for his work to recently bring over 100 local people together. There were local people, businesspeople and sporting identities. Catering, hospitality and agribusiness were represented, as well as physios, health professionals and representatives from Central Queensland University and all three levels of government. They were all there to work together to take advantage as much as possible of the Olympics in 2032 in Queensland and to make sure that Central Queensland is a destination of choice for pre-games training and investment.

Ellen Farlow, a Yeppoon local who actually worked for the International Olympic Committee and the organising committees for the Sydney and Torino Olympic Games, was there providing advice and assistance about how our region can capitalise on the games and attract as much investment, tourism and pre-games training and preparation as possible. I thank Ellen for her contribution. I look forward to working with her into the future. I suggest that anyone in the state government who is working on the Brisbane 2032 games should consider Ellen as part of their team because she has a huge amount of experience working for the IOC and the organising committees in Sydney and Torino. It is great to have her based in Yeppoon.

I have been delighted to see investment already starting to flow in Central Queensland off the back of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games announcement. Just recently we saw a statement from Hancock Prospecting where they confirmed that they have entered into an agreement to potentially acquire the Great Keppel Island development project. Their statement confirms—

With the announcement of the 2032 Olympics to be held in Brisbane, the redevelopment of Great Keppel Island presents as a great time to showcase Queensland as a premium, world class destination.

...

We wish to maintain and improve its natural beauty and tourist facilities, subject to all government approvals, enabling this to make possible, for Queenslanders and others to enjoy for generations to come.

Hancock welcomes the focus of the State Government to support and encourage investment in the State of Queensland and we look forward to working with the Queensland government and Livingstone Shire Council and all stakeholders for the appropriate revitalisation of this beautiful island and tourist destination.

I table a copy for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Hancock Prospecting press release, undated, titled 'Hancock has entered into an agreement to potentially acquire the Great Keppel Island development project' [2055](#).

That is proof that the Brisbane 2032 Olympics announcement is already paying dividends for regional Queensland. I cannot wait to see what will happen right across Queensland as a result of this fantastic announcement. We have been looking forward to this kind of injection of confidence in Central Queensland for some time. The Brisbane 2032 Olympics announcement is already delivering that for our region. I cannot wait to see what happens in the future. I know that this announcement by Hancock

will not be the last in terms of the opportunities for investment not only in my region but right across this state. To all of those members and some on the crossbench who have concerns about the Brisbane 2032 Olympics, I say that they should get on board because this will be great for Queensland. It will be great for members who represent communities right across this beautiful state. I can confirm that this announcement of the Olympics is already starting to pay dividends. I commend the bill to the House.