




Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.20 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 this afternoon. I want to thank the Premier for her work on this bill and I thank the committee for their report. I also want to acknowledge all of those hardworking and distinguished public servants who worked so hard to help the government secure the Olympic and Paralympic Games, particularly Kerry Petersen, who is head of the Olympics 2032 Taskforce. Kerry has done a wonderful job not just working with a very dedicated crew to secure the games but also to prepare this bill, and I want to acknowledge them up-front. We work so closely with the Public Service. We respect the Public Service for the work they do, and I want to acknowledge Kerry and her team for the work they do.

I support the bill, firstly as an individual who loves sport, particularly the Olympic and Paralympic Games; secondly, through my portfolio responsibilities as Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. The events this bill will facilitate, the Queensland Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2032, are vitally important to the economic future of this state. Like a pole vaulter, the games will propel Queensland higher from strong foundations. That is because our economy is strong. I want to set out some of the economic context of where Queensland is, the strength of our economy and how strong our economy is, which allowed us to make this audacious bid in the middle of a pandemic to secure the Olympics, and the economic environment in which the organising committee established under this bill will operate.

Coming out of COVID our state has gone from strength to strength. On all of the major economic indicators Queensland either leads the national average or we are the best-performing state in our own right. On retail spending we are almost 17 per cent higher than our pre-COVID level. On household lending Queensland is 36 per cent higher over the year, faster than the national average. Dwelling investment in Queensland rose 2.3 per cent in the June quarter. Business investment in Queensland was 8.1 per cent higher in the June quarter. In the year to March, net interstate migration to Queensland rose by 31,000 people—the equivalent of a new city the size of Gladstone—all of whom will enjoy the games when they arrive in our state in about a decade's time.

Most importantly, we have led the nation when it comes to creating jobs. There are now 90,000 more Queenslanders in work than there were in March 2020. By comparison, in New South Wales and Victoria there are 300,000 fewer people in work than in March 2020. I am pleased to say that national accounts data released just this morning by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland's economy grew by 1.8 per cent in the September quarter.

At the same time as Queensland was growing, the national economy went backwards by the same amount: negative 1.8 per cent. Household consumption in Queensland grew while the national average fell. Private investment in Queensland grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average limped along at 0.8 per cent. Dwelling investment in Queensland also grew by 4.6 per cent while the national average went sideways, growing by just 0.1 per cent. Business investment in Queensland bounded ahead by 4.9 per cent. Across the country it managed less than 1 per cent—0.8 per cent—growth.

Queensland is the fastest growing mainland state, I am pleased to report to the House, with our economy growing by 6.1 per cent over the year. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020 growth in the national economy has been on hold, rising by just 0.1 per cent in that time. We are well set to fund the games, support the games and derive those economic gains the games will deliver to our state.

Queensland's outstanding economic performance is no accident. Like our Olympic athletes, it is the result of preparation, dedication and commitment. Because of the hard work that we did—Queenslanders following the health advice in particular—we are now reaping the rewards: jobs, economic growth and economic opportunities. This bill ensures that we will continue to reap those rewards. Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games allows us to make the most of our strong position on the track and to turn our existing advantage into lasting generational benefits. Unlike events at the Olympics, there is no finish line for Queensland. We must keep pushing forward generation after generation.

We have come out of the pandemic as the best performing of the three large states, but we are the smallest of those states. We have not had the profile of Victoria or New South Wales—until now. Unlike New South Wales and Victoria, we have not hosted the Olympics previously. 2032 is our opportunity to permanently enshrine the achievements of our state during the pandemic over the last two years; to demonstrate what a world-leading health response means for jobs and a vibrant economy; and to demonstrate our performance as a state and as a people in the face of extraordinary adversity. 2032 will give our state the profile and confidence to take our place as the preeminent destination in Australia. It will give our state the chance to show the world what the rest of Australia looks at with envy: the Queensland spirit, our culture and our pride, our belief as a people in who we are and who we may become.

In securing the games and delivering the games, it is very pleasing that we have the full support of the International Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee for the Paralympic Games. The IOC recognises that now is the moment to do things better, in a way they have never been done before. The new norms—the principles under which the organising committee to be established under this bill will deliver the games—will ensure that Queenslanders will be left with venues and infrastructure that are workhorses, not white elephants. We are not going to be like Sydney, wanting to rebuild and then refurbish their main Olympic venue within just two decades, then having to scrap those plans because they cannot afford them. The legacy of the 2032 games will leave future generations of Queenslanders with catalytic infrastructure, not wide elephants and additional debt. The IOC will assist Queensland in funding the operational games of the Olympics.

As for the infrastructure, 84 per cent of the venues proposed under the games' master plan already exist or can be delivered through temporary solutions. We will continue to work to ensure every venue has a locked-in, long-lasting benefit. Our investments will be prudent and responsible and they will be made with a keen eye to cut the cloth; they will not be made with rose-coloured glasses. As Minister for Trade, I also want to affirm to the House and remind the House that the Olympics will provide an extraordinary platform for Queensland businesses to produce and sell goods and services to the rest of the world and employ more Queenslanders. This is the greatest possible showcase that Queensland could ever have for our businesses and industries. For our trade sector it means opportunities to open new export opportunities as the global spotlight shines on our state. The time is right for Queensland because we have managed the COVID pandemic so well and we are ready to turbocharge the ongoing recovery. All of these factors are good for our economy and good for our community.

We face a little over a decade before the Olympic flame is lit in Queensland. Many of the athletes who will do Queensland and our nation proud are not yet household names, but they will be. Before our homegrown athletes strive for gold in 2032 our state has the chance to embrace a golden decade—a decade of optimism, of winning new opportunities and of seizing every split second to show the world that Queensland is a global citizen that leaves nobody behind. Even though it will be a decade before the Olympic flame is lit, it should serve as a guiding beacon to all of us to be bold but faithful by: redoubling our efforts to prepare for the games, constantly setting our sights a little higher, relentlessly championing Queensland, and celebrating what Queenslanders can achieve when we work alongside one another faster, higher, stronger, together.