




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak on this bill that will help us deliver an Olympics for all of Queensland, and all of Queensland will embrace this unreservedly. London, Rio, Tokyo, Paris, LA and Brisbane—I love the sound of that and I will keep on saying it because it sounds so right. These are Olympic cities and leading cities of the world, and we are standing at the epicentre of one of them. As we know, this bill, which has been endorsed by the IOC, will establish the organising committee as an independent statutory body. The committee or corporation will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of critical aspects of the 2032 games. As we have heard, at least 50 per cent of the nominated directors will be women, something that is very welcome.

This bill is a crucial first step and we can now go on to the next exciting steps for our games. There are many potential aspects of the Olympics that are truly exciting. One of the things that really warms my heart is that this will inspire a generation of Queensland children. I think about the Queensland kids I know that I see playing sport today. Through this, they are dreaming about wearing the green and gold for their country in their home town at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For example, I think about the kids I see at hockey. I have managed the hockey teams of my son, Guy, at Redcliffe Hockey Club for a couple of years from under-9s to under-11s. He will be in the under 13s next year on the artificial turf. Managing these kids every Saturday morning is a job I love doing, and I only came to realise how much I look forward to it when I was writing this speech. On the turf at Redcliffe hockey centre I see kids with levels of hockey skills that I find truly astounding. I see rep players who are already playing for Queensland and they can go all the way. It is a revelation to see how good they are. I see them playing on the artificial turf at Redcliffe and at Kedron-Wavell at the State Hockey Centre and they dream of playing for Australia. They know that dream is closer because of these Olympics.

I think also of Kyle Willis, a young para-athlete in our area who I think is bound for sports glory. He cycles for my cycling club, the Moreton Bay Cycling Club. He has the skills, the ability and the work ethic to go all the way. He is helping us to organise the Moreton Bay 100 this day. I have seen him on the Anna Meares Velodrome. I want to see him there again in 11 years time, and I really want to see him on the podium receiving a medal.

The Moreton Bay 100 is a cycling event where we get to show off what we have to offer for the cycling community in the Moreton Bay area. I think it shows how suited we are to holding those long road events. I know that the member for Glass House has talked about holding Olympic road cycling events on the Sunshine Coast. Moreton Bay has what I believe is an even better location for a road race. It could go from Woody Point to Mount Mee through the strawberry and pineapple fields. It is a great experience for both cyclists and spectators. This is just one example of what our region offers as an Olympic experience.

I also think about the kids at Deception Bay Little Athletics. The kids in this club really do believe that they can run for Australia because very soon they will be running on the Deception Bay artificial running track. I am very proud of this project. I have been chasing it in council and in this chamber for

about 10 years. It will be the running track for Queenslanders between the Sunshine Coast and Nudgee. It is the home of the Deception Bay Little Athletics and Amateur Athletics. These clubs have already produced about half a dozen Australian representatives.

This track will provide an incredible opportunity for kids from ordinary working families in Queensland to run on an international track, and they can do that every week. It will be ready in about a year's time, so they will have 10 years on a track to help develop these kids and help them achieve their dreams of running for Australia. The Palaszczuk government put forward \$1 million to develop this track. The federal government has put forward \$1½ million and the council has contributed as well. I really look forward to seeing those kids running on that track dreaming once again of wearing the green and gold in their home Olympic Games.

We know this will be an Olympic and Paralympic Games for all of Queensland. We will hear it often over the coming years, but it is a fact that Queenslanders have already embedded in our minds that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I think we are only now beginning to realise what it will truly bring. We have heard that over the next 20 years it will generate around \$8.1 billion in benefits for Queenslanders all over the state. That includes many billions in international tourism and trade, over 90,000 jobs in Queensland, a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities, and projects. As we have heard from many speakers today, what the 2032 games will deliver in terms of infrastructure is very exciting. I will mention a few key pieces of infrastructure that we will remember for a long time.

First, I want to say let's not forget the role of Cross River Rail in making the Olympics and Paralympic Games viable for us, once again—and we have heard it today, but I will say it again—100 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk government. There was a dearth of support from the federal government for it. Never mind, it was the Palaszczuk government vision to bring forward this project, make sure it happens and show that we are able and ready to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

We have heard about the Gabba and seeing how that will integrate with public transport which will be of benefit to many generations thanks to the Olympics. It is great to hear that the first day of the first Ashes Test is already sold out. Obviously I am very excited to hear what hopefully Ballymore will be doing for hockey—seeing hockey matches there—and hearing about the Brisbane Live arena as a venue for swimming and diving. What a great opportunity. What a great spectacle that would be at that location.

One of the things I really welcome is the redevelopment of Northshore Hamilton. This Olympic and Paralympic athletes village of up to 10,000 beds will become a residential development after the games. It will offer diverse housing choices, affordable housing, aged care, perhaps retirement living and social housing built around opportunities. That can be a real bonus to the whole of Queensland as we work harder and harder to develop more housing for Queenslanders. It will set a great example of the innovations we can deliver to create housing for many Queenslanders.

It is also really exciting to hear how the Olympics will benefit Queensland through the procurement policy we have adopted. As we have heard, included in this bill are the clauses that continue one of the central themes of the Palaszczuk government, and that is Buy Queensland. Clause 10 requires the corporation to procure goods and services in accordance with this policy except when inconsistent with the host contract. It means that Queensland businesses can capitalise on the decades of growth and investment that are being delivered. There will be enormous supply chain opportunities in agriculture, agritourism and all of tourism.

I am really glad to see that boxing will be centred in Moreton Bay Regional Council at The Mill at Petrie, University of the Sunshine Coast, although I think there would be many more opportunities for our area. I would love to see more of that. I have talked a bit about what we offer in terms of cycling. It would be great to see a criterium track there as well one day. We are the third largest council in Australia. We will have about 600,000 people by the time of that Olympics.

I want to conclude by pointing out that we have bid for the games before. I remember the first bid by Brisbane for an Olympics and Paralympics in the 1980s. It was started by Lord Mayor Roy Harvey and followed through by Sallyanne Atkinson. I remember that night in the Queen Street Mall a couple of us were parked there waiting for the good news and the celebration which we thought would be inevitable and trying to get our faces on TV for the live cross. As we know, we did not get it. I remember we were standing in the mall quite perplexed by this decision for the games to go to Barcelona. Where? Barcelona. Why did it not come to Brisbane?

**Mrs McMahon:** Where?

**Mr WHITING:** Where, exactly. How could they not see what we had to offer, what we already had? We know now that the time was not quite right and our time would come for the Olympics and Paralympic Games. That time is now. To be precise, it is in 10 years time. We are ready for that journey and the journey has already started. We will be able to run a superb and safe Olympics and Paralympics in 2032.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): There is something different about you tonight, member for Bancroft. I cannot pick it.

**Mr Whiting:** Ron Burgundy has left the building.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hopefully you have raised some money.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.