




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. As this is the first time I have had an opportunity to speak on this matter, I congratulate all those involved in securing the games for Queensland. Australia's legendary Paralympian Kurt Fearnley puts it in context when he says that the 2032 games can be the best in history. The three-time Paralympic gold medallist won a total of 13 medals in a career spanning five Paralympic Games. He says that there is no greater global showcase of diversity and inclusion than the Paralympic Games. Kurt believes that the societal change these games can bring about over the next decade in Australia will be profound. I am delighted to acknowledge that Kurt has been appointed the Paralympic athlete representative on the Brisbane 2032 organising committee.

Like the wheelchair racing great, I believe this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for an enduring legacy of what will be a wonderful Brisbane games. The legacy will be one that embraces our seniors, many thousands of whom will be proud volunteers at these games, the millions within our disability community and our First Nations people. As an Australian I proudly remember the opening of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, where we celebrated 60,000 years of custodianship by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—the two oldest living cultures in the world, the foundation of our nation.

Plans are now underway to ensure the Brisbane 2032 games is for all Queenslanders and will be an enduring sense of pride for our nation. It will be a games inclusive of all Queenslanders, with benefits to be shared across the state. Take, for example, the venue master plan, which identifies that 37 competition venues will be required for hosting 28 Olympic and 22 Paralympic sports. These will all be accessible for people living with disability. The Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association, one of my department's key stakeholders, made a submission to the bill on this matter. The association asked that it consider inclusion in matters of legacy planning, infrastructure planning and service delivery. The submission said that this extends to an accessibility of facilities and inclusion in employment opportunities.

The Olympic host contract requires the corporation to operate in conformity with and promote the principles of diversity, inclusion and gender equality in all of its activities related to the organisation of Brisbane 2032. The bill provides the opportunity to ensure diversity on the board, particularly in terms of the capacity of the responsible minister, the Premier, and the Prime Minister to nominate members to the board. In this regard, I encourage that nominations ensure gender diversity and ensure that, in addition to the appointment of the president of Paralympics Australia, there is appropriate disability and First Nations representation on the board. The IPC Handbook also states—

The OCOG shall foster the widest possible community involvement into the planning, promotion, preparation and staging of the Paralympic Games, as a unique opportunity to enhance social inclusion, tolerance to diversity and active citizenship amongst its members.

I want to see diversity and inclusion as front-of-mind issues as we embark on our planning towards 2032—not just an afterthought.

As the Premier said, I am certain Kurt Fearnley's passion, advocacy and input and his reputation as both an analytical and pragmatic thinker who understands business, the media and, of course, elite sport will be invaluable as we build the foundations of a magnificent games in Queensland and Australia.

In the bill, I also welcome the requirement to ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland government's procurement policy, including procurement from Indigenous businesses. Under this policy, the Palaszczuk government has made a commitment that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and run businesses will account for three per cent of government contracts by 2022. We have an opportunity to achieve gold in meeting this target, with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games forecast to generate \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits to Queensland, almost 92,000 full-time jobs over the next 20 years and an enduring impact on the lives of First Nations Queenslanders.

As Queensland continues on the Path to Treaty, by the time this state hosts the Brisbane games I hope we will be recognised as world leaders in reconciliation, truth telling and healing. When we think about 2032, still 11 years away, it is my hope that we speak about treaty and reconciliation in the past tense and that it is something that we celebrate in 2032 as where we have been, where we have come from and how we got there. That would be the true legacy of this state. In 2032 we can showcase that to the world as something that other countries and states can follow.

It would be wrong if I made a speech and did not talk about Cairns, Far North Queensland and regional Queensland and the benefits in the build-up to 2032. It is not just about the couple of weeks of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games; it is the many years of build-up to those games. Cairns as a tourist city saw significant potential and investment across tourism and tourist numbers after the Sydney 2000 games. We expect we will see a similar trajectory when it comes to the Brisbane games. It will put us on the map. People across the world will see Queensland, Brisbane, Cairns, the Gold Coast, the Whitsundays and outback Queensland as potential places to travel to and visit. I am sure we will get tourists for many years to come. In closing, I stand in support of the Brisbane Olympics and Paralympics Arrangements Bill 2021.