




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.55 pm): Mindful of the time, I rise to make a short contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The Olympics represents what Queenslanders are all about—aspiration, inspiration and, at the crux of it all, teamwork. While this will be the third time our nation has hosted this event, for Queensland it will be the first. This is an historic time for every one of us and we commit to investing our efforts into ensuring the benefits of this international event are realised in every single part of this state. For at least the next decade and beyond, our state in all her glory will be showcased across the globe as we commence the well-worn path to Olympic glory, for it is as much about the opportunities that will be afforded in the lead-up to this unrivalled and unparalleled event.

It is imperative that our heavy investment leaves a lasting legacy for Queenslanders everywhere in the form of much needed infrastructure, a highly skilled workforce and a comprehensive tourism strategy that will help us capitalise on the event in the lead-up to it and leave a long-lasting legacy post 2032. This has specific implications for my own electorate of Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast which will be home to four key venues and a host of sports, including football, cycling, basketball, marathon, mountain cycling and kiteboarding. We need to see this investment translate into long overdue road upgrades including the duplication of the Sunshine Motorway, which I am pleased to see planning has now commenced for. It must also deliver on the extension of heavy rail into Maroochydore—a critical link in our region's connectivity—along with a rapid bus network that feeds into this rail line so locals and visitors can move around safely and at ease.

The next 11 years will be crucial for our region, which will play an extraordinary role in the delivery and the success of the 2032 games. Ensuring collaboration across all three levels of government to secure this much needed and long overdue infrastructure is delivered will be my key focus—a focus shared by federal colleague and my neighbour, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games, Ted O'Brien, whose advocacy to date has been instrumental. I look forward to continuing to work with Ted as we deliver for our region. I also acknowledge the work of my fellow Economics and Governance Committee members for their role in examining this bill and to those who made a submission. There is broad support for this much anticipated legislation that will enshrine the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics, and rightly so. What is also clear is the monumental role of the organising committee, which this legislation will establish. It is important that this legislation is underpinned by transparency and accountability to ensure that Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, can be confident that their hard-earned taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and will continue to reap benefits long after the games have concluded.

That brings me to the very legitimate concerns raised during the committee's examination of the legislation—namely, the exemptions from the Right to Information Act. A number of submitters, including the Information Commissioner herself, questioned the need for these overly cautious and potentially undemocratic provisions. She went on to suggest that the existing RTI framework already includes provisions to enable the protection of information where it would be contrary to the public

interest to disclose that information. It is the opposition's firm view that exemptions to the Right to Information Act should only be used in exceptional circumstances and there has been no clear rationale or assurances provided during the committee's examination of the bill that the exemptions to the RTI Act will not be used inappropriately. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Queenslanders and they deserve and expect full transparency from this state government which, in the past, has shown an increasing tendency to shield itself from full public disclosure. Concerns have also been expressed about the conflict-of-interest provisions in the bill.

When it comes to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, there are no second chances. Queensland's brand and reputation will be placed under intense scrutiny in the years and months leading up to the 2032 games and there is no room for complacency. Only the strongest measures to protect and ensure the integrity of the games by virtue of the role of the organising committee will suffice. These concerns aside—and by no means are they trivial concerns—the opposition supports this bill and welcomes the opportunities this legacy-creating event promises to deliver for Queensland. This will only be achieved if the state government leaves its self-interest at the door and from the passing of this bill pledges a new era of accountability and transparency that Queenslanders have been pleading for. Then, and only then, will the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games truly be an Olympic legacy that all Queenslanders stand to benefit from. I commend the bill to the House.