




Speech By
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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.48 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill and, in doing so, express the opposition's heartfelt support for the games and for this bill. During the course of my contribution, I will reflect on some of the clauses in the bill. I wish to place on record my thanks to the Premier for addressing some of the issues raised by the committee. I thank the committee for its work in examining this bill. I will raise some concerns I have with some of the clauses in the hope that they can be reflected on.

I wish to start by acknowledging a little bit of the history of this. It is a reflection of what can happen when levels of government work together. I have to say that across all levels of government—all parliaments—the willingness for this to occur has been excellent. We as an opposition from day one have backed this. We have not sought to dog whistle. I know some have tried to weaponise this debate. It does not have to pit one part of the state against another. It can be something that benefits all Queenslanders. It can be a unifying moment for this state. It can be the time when the eyes of the world look at Queensland. When we think about Expo 88 and what it did to the psyche of Queenslanders, this can be that dialled up to a whole new level. That is why it is so important that this bill is passed and we begin the journey to prepare ourselves for what is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for this state.

Having reflected on all three levels of government and on the way that we have conducted ourselves as an opposition in terms of our wholehearted support, I want to pay tribute to the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, led by the Lord Mayor Adrian Schinnerer, who has been an ardent supporter of this. I also wish to reflect on the maturity and depth of the other mayors in the greater south-east. These games bear Brisbane's name, yet mayors right across the spectrum have got behind them. I think that is testament to the quality of mayors that we have in the region and indeed mayors throughout Queensland who have sought to ensure that their communities can see that there is something in this for them. I will explain why in just a moment.

It would also be wrong for any contribution not to reflect on former lord mayor Graham Quirk. Quirky believed in this—he backed it and he backed it hard.

Mr Stevens: He started it.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. He did start this and he did so at a time when others doubted it. He remained focused and disciplined in getting broader support from across different levels of government, different political persuasions and different mayors and, in true Graham Quirk fashion, he did it in a respectful and dignified way. We would be wrong not to acknowledge him and indeed the efforts of Sallyanne Atkinson in the previous bid who also saw the opportunity to put Brisbane on the map. I want to pay tribute to both of them.

I want to see these games be more than just a focus when the event is on. If we do things properly, this can be generationally beneficial for Queensland. I will reflect on infrastructure in a moment because of course that is very important. I think it is also a golden opportunity for tourism—that is, not just tourism in the south-east but tourism in every part of Queensland, including the Outback. It is great

to have my good friend the member for Gregory in the chamber; I almost called him the member for Miller! That would not have worked well—different spelling and different locations. The member for Gregory wants to ensure that during the games when people look at Queensland they do not just look at Brisbane; they look at Queensland as a whole. The games will impact across the board from the magnificent Far North and the great offering there to the sandy beaches of the Gold Coast, the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, Magnetic Island, the Whitsundays, Toowoomba—

Mr Lister: The Granite Belt!

Mr CRISAFULLI: And the magnificent wines of the Granite Belt. It is a golden opportunity for Queensland tourism. We cannot expect people to rock up in 2032 and it will all be hunky-dory. We have to develop a 20-year tourism plan for Queensland. We must have a 20-year tourism plan and it must be in three parts. The next decade has to be about product development and we have to get serious about that. Part of that involves looking at our natural attractions and finding a way to create environmentally special tourism opportunities that do not just protect the environment but enhance it.

Enhancing the environment does not mean locking it away. It means allowing people to respectfully use it, as we have seen in other parts of this nation and the globe. It can be done, but it is difficult because there are those who have different views. There are those who believe that the only way to protect a national park is to lock it up, not maintain it and not let anybody go into it. I do not share that view. I think it can be done in a respectful way. I think it can be enhanced, I think you can make a few dollars and I think you can put that money back into improving the environment and creating jobs for kids and for people who want to invest and be long-term partners in the tourism industry in the process. We have seen other states—Tasmania is front and centre—and other nations such as New Zealand do that effectively. We must use this as an opportunity to develop new product for the tourism industry.

We need to have an aggressive strategy built around 2032 that builds on that euphoria to get people before, during and after the games to come and experience the buzz that will be around. If the product development is right and if the eyes of the world see a well-run games in 2032, we will then have a decade of opportunity where we can bask in the afterglow when Queensland will be on people's minds—the great Olympic city of Brisbane, the great state of Queensland. That is a tourism strategy that is not just about the short window of the games.

No contribution discussing the Olympic and Paralympic Games is complete without reflecting on the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast—a great project and a great event that proved the Gold Coast's capability to host an event, but it was a missed opportunity in some regards because so much emphasis was put on telling people about traffic chaos and gridlock and not being able to get there that people quite frankly stayed away.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I probably should not take that interjection because there were some quotes from the government messaging that the member for Gaven may wish to reflect on that could have been a little more helpful. In the spirit of a wonderful event, let us just say that the Commonwealth Games proved the Gold Coast's ability to run events. It proved the Gold Coast's ability to be a wonderful city with a diverse offering of lifestyle and accommodation. Some of the facilities there are world-class. We absolutely must make sure that we encourage people to come here and experience an amazing event, but I stress that it cannot just be about the event. It needs to be about product development and promotion and then we really need to rev things up in the years following.

I mentioned before that the event has to benefit the entire state. We are all Queenslanders and we all want to see this event succeed. Benefiting the whole state can mean different things for different areas. For some areas it might mean an opportunity to host an event. That is huge. Whether it is the smallest of rounds through to a major event that attracts thousands, it allows the eyes of the world to look at all of Queensland and see the great product differentiation and the great diversity we have in our cities and towns. It is also about upskilling people to build the infrastructure we need. If we do it right, there is nothing stopping suppliers from small regional areas from becoming Olympic Games and Paralympic Games suppliers. That is a great opportunity. We have seen that done successfully. Whilst there were errors made during the Sydney games that we can learn from, they also found a way to ensure that smaller businesses from throughout New South Wales made a contribution to building infrastructure for the games—and we must do that. If we do, the buy-in that we will get will be something special for all of us to reflect on and enjoy.

Infrastructure must be delivered on time and on budget. It is here that we say to the government: do not squander the opportunity that comes with the goodwill from other levels of government, and indeed the IOC in helping to fund operations of these games, to build infrastructure on time and on budget. We have seen a culture in this state where that does not occur. Every time there is a major project the budget for it blows out. The time lines blow out. The movement of the different line items to

different sections of the budget continues to get murky. The government has an issue with building things on time and on budget and it cannot be the case for this. We have to be able to deliver more infrastructure. We have to make sure that we leverage contributions from other levels of government.

When the eyes of the world are looking to us to deliver a world-class games, let us build world-class infrastructure, not the kind that people will use only during the games. Let us look at the opportunity to build the road network and the public transport network that a growing region needs. Let's have a look to plan for water and sewerage. Let's have a look at where we are going to source our quarrying materials. What are the long-term opportunities to set up not only the greater South-East Queensland region but all of Queensland? How can we use this to deliver planning for infrastructure on time and on budget?

I will come back to where I started: we will be wholeheartedly supporting this bill. As the shadow minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games I am particularly pleased to see the opportunities this presents, but I seek to raise a couple of concerns in relation to clauses 65 and 66, the right to information provisions. In her contribution the Premier mentioned sponsorship, and I get that. I completely get that we are dealing with a body that will engage in long-term contract deals and TV rights, and that is something that should be protected as commercial-in-confidence. I get that in the future we will be dealing with the travel logistics of world leaders and extremely high-profile people, whether they are athletes, administrators or people in positions of authority. I get that that information has to be protected.

I also come back to my philosophical view that, in relation to information, the going-in position should always be that it is shared—that is the first position—and then exemptions should be bolted onto that subsequently. I am particularly concerned about how loose some of the clauses are. My concern is that, if the government starts seeking to bring things in under the guise of this bill and this committee, people will not be able to access it and, quite rightly, ask questions about costings. We have a culture where the government can be prepared to spend, I do not know, \$150 million on a deal and not be willing to share that sort of information.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It could be any project. On behalf of all Queenslanders I ask the government to look at and reflect on these concerns. Go in with the premise that information belongs in the public domain. Where it should not be, you then justify the reason for that information to be in the public domain, and that is how you build trust. That is how you make transparency matter. That is how you bring integrity to the way you conduct yourself, because openness and transparency matter. So it is with the conflict-of-interest provisions. I will comment on what the CCC said about the conflict-of-interest provisions in relation to governing. The CCC said that this bill presents 'corruption risks' and continues—

... the Bill proposes to 'carve out' duties owed by elected officials as a result of their elected office from the requirements regarding conflicts.

The CCC further notes—

If a conflict arises between an elected office bearer's duties and their role as a director on the Corporation it should be declared and managed.

These concerns especially relate to clauses 37 and 44, and the Premier has dealt with a very small portion of that. I would just make the point that the people who sit on this board will have a vast array of skills. They will be people who will continue to work in different industries, and so they should. It needs to be diverse. There needs to be the best people sitting on this board. But good governance involves not asking people not to be on the board: good governance asks that conflicts of interests are declared and easily managed. I am not for one moment suggesting that the people who sit on this board should not have other interests. Of course they should. That is the way to have the best and brightest minds.

I am asking that conflict-of-interest provisions be declared and managed, and that is the same for every board. It is the same for elected officials. It is the same thing that happens in council chambers across the state, listed companies and P&Cs. If you sit on a P&C and you are in the electrical game and a contract comes up that cuts across your business, you declare what it is and you deal with it. That is the way that governance operates from the smallest organisation to the largest. In the interests of transparency, accountability and integrity I do not see a provision that says that conflicts of interest should not be declared and managed as being good for governance. In fact, I think it breeds a culture where people will be concerned. For an event that means so much to Queensland it is important that people have faith.

Let me conclude by talking about the bit of the games that people really want to see: the opportunity for homegrown people to do their state and nation proud at home. Whilst the games are important for our infrastructure and tourism, they are also pretty important for a generation of Queenslanders to feel good about themselves and a generation of kids to believe in themselves—

particularly kids with disabilities. That is why it is so important to see the focus on the Paralympics and the truly moving stories of the games: the Paralympians. We all love the contest that comes with the Olympic Games and the dedication of people who spend their life making incredible sacrifices to win gold. The Paralympics has an added little hurdle; that is, people who have overcome setbacks in their life, whether that be from day one or because of tragedy, and that makes it particularly special. By hosting these games a generation of young Queenslanders today may very well be motivated to start really buckling down and training hard. Wouldn't it be amazing if on the back of us hosting the games someone can fulfil their dreams and become an Olympian or a Paralympian.

The opposition will be supporting the bill; the opposition will be supporting the games. The opposition looks to not only play its part for many years to come in government from 2024 to ensure that the infrastructure is delivered in the right manner but also in the next three years to make sure governance arrangements are open and transparent and the government is held accountable for the things that matter as part of the Olympics and Paralympics bid.