




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.58 am): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As has been expressed by my colleagues, the LNP has provided and will continue to provide bipartisan support for Queensland hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. However, I would like to remind the government and those opposite, particularly the member I speak after, that we on this side of the House have always supported the Olympics being held here in Queensland. In fact, on 13 June 2019 I stood in this House and said—

We will also give Queenslanders certainty about our Olympics bid. Disappointingly, the Treasurer failed to back the games in her budget speech. The Palaszczuk government has failed to provide any leadership on this issue. The LNP wants Queensland to go for gold. We are backing a bid for the Queensland Olympic Games. The games would supercharge our tourism industry, showcasing Queensland to the world. It would ensure that future-proofing infrastructure is delivered. Queensland will need this infrastructure with or without the Olympic Games, but a games bid will ensure the infrastructure is delivered.

I have to say thank you very much to the federal Morrison government which was leading the Olympic bid off the back of the Council of Mayors. This bid was lead at the time by the chair of the Council of Mayors, Graham Quirk. What an inspirational man former lord mayor Graham Quirk is. He is a visionary. He went around this state and was the genesis of this. It was former lord mayor Graham Quirk who did the boot work. He went around this state. He spoke to Queenslanders about the benefit of an Olympic bid for Queensland, and that was exactly what the Council of Mayors did.

I congratulate Mayor Karen Williams for being appointed to the committee because she was a part of that, as was Graham Lehman, the Somerset mayor. Somerset Mayor Graham Lehman knows the absolute benefit to the Somerset region these Olympic Games will bring, as they will to the Lockyer, as they will to Moreton Bay, as they will to the entirety of Queensland because Queensland will be showcased to the world. Imagine being able to showcase the Scenic Rim to the rest of the world. I know the Scenic Rim is a beautiful part of the world but maybe not as nice as the Somerset. However, we will be able to showcase that to the world and that was the vision of former lord mayor Graham Quirk.

This is a bipartisan games. It is three levels of government working together. This is not the Palaszczuk games. This is Queensland's games. That is why I am so proud to stand on this side of the House to remind those opposite about the work of the Council of Mayors. It was the members of that body who did the work—did the legwork—backed by the federal Morrison government, and in at the last minute the Palaszczuk government decided to jump on board because it knew the benefit for the future of Queensland and because it knew it would need to partner with the federal government to bring infrastructure to this great state of ours. That was the only way that Queensland would be able to get ahead, and that was by partnering with the Morrison government on this catalytic project that will bring catalytic infrastructure to this great state of ours.

The bill that is before the House establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for those games and is to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As I have said, I congratulate Mayor Karen

Williams for her appointment to that committee. That is a very good appointment. I want to congratulate the incredible, amazing Paralympian Kurt Fearnley. There is no greater Olympian or Paralympian than Kurt Fearnley, and I really want to congratulate him. Of course then there is Queensland's great Bronte Barratt. It is wonderful to see her appointed to this committee as well and I look forward with much interest in the years to come on who will be making up that committee. It is very important who is on that committee, and I know that through my experience with the G20 in Brisbane—the most successful G20 ever held and I was very proud of my work on that G20 and how successful it was. The Olympics is the world's largest event and will be held right here, so we have to get it right. We have to get the right people on that committee—people with drive and enthusiasm. They are the type of people we need on that committee.

When talking about the Olympics I want to congratulate two incredible women from the South Burnett. I looked up which Olympians have come from my electorate. We all know Taliqua Clancy. What an incredible dual Olympian. In 2016 she went to Rio to play beach volleyball and came home with the silver medal from the Tokyo Olympics. I know Taliqua is very proud of her silver but wants to better it, so go, Taliqua! Go for gold in Paris! I know that she will be very successful in Paris.

In 1964 Robyn Thorn from Kingaroy brought home a silver medal for her role in the four by 100 freestyle and came second to Dawn Fraser in her individual event in the semifinal and did not make the final. I was really pleased to read that about Robyn Thorn because the South Burnett has an incredible sporting history, and swimming and beach volleyball are obviously at the top of the list. What is next? We know we will bring home a gold for Kingaroy in the South Burnett before 2032 but—

**An opposition member:** Breakdancing?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—what is next for those young kids who are growing up out there and all across Queensland? How exciting! There are new sports like breakdancing, so I take that interjection. I know that is in Paris, but I am not sure whether Kingaroy will have a breakdancer representing us at the Olympics. However, sport is so important for every child. It is important to get out in the sunshine and play sport, whether it is a team sport or individual sport. It does not matter how good you are and it does not matter whether or not you are wishing to get to the Olympics; it is just fantastic to get out and play sport. It is so important to have a healthy lifestyle and I know that my local schools are so excited about the future Olympics. Whenever I go to those schools I ask the kids what sport they would like to play. They often nominate many sports that are not in the Olympics. However, skateboarding is now an Olympic sport. How fantastic is that? I know that I am working extremely hard to get a skate park for Wooroolin. I met some great kids and I said to them that we need to fight for this skate park in Wooroolin and one of the little boys said to me, 'Well maybe, Deb, I can go to the Olympics. If you tell the Premier that, we'll get a skate park in Wooroolin.' So here is hoping for a skate park in Wooroolin so we can have a future Olympic skateboarder coming straight from Wooroolin. I am not going to name—

**Mr Millar:** You could hold the event there!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** We could hold the skateboarding in Wooroolin. Wouldn't that be fantastic? Wooroolin is just out of Kingaroy. It is a beautiful little town and I encourage people to get out there. I also want to wish all future Olympians who are training right now all the very best, who are doing the hard yards, training hard and watching the black line if they are a swimmer or running or cycling. Whatever the sport is, keep going because you are doing very well and we look forward to supporting you in Paris. We may not be there in person, but we will certainly be cheering on from the sidelines. I for one am beyond excited for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.