




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (3.10 pm): Today I am pleased to talk about the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that Brisbane has to host the Olympic Games in 2032. Hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a transformational opportunity for Queensland that will unlock enormous benefits, both social and economic, at a speed and size that our state has never before seen.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk government leading the bid process in conjunction with our other games partners, we will achieve a range of lasting benefits for all Queenslanders. This includes an estimated \$8.1 billion in social and economic benefits to be shared across the state. The games will deliver 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs, \$4.6 billion in economic benefits and \$3.5 billion in social benefits right across Queensland.

These economic benefits include a significant uplift in tourism, trade and employment, while the social benefits to residents—which are just as important—include health benefits, enhanced sporting outcomes, increased volunteering, partnerships between industry and government, diversity and inclusion, positive behavioural change, along with pollution and waste management incentives.

The games provide an opportunity to accelerate the delivery of the long-term infrastructure that is needed for sustainable growth across Queensland and the certainty and confidence needed to support increased investment and innovation now and over the coming decades.

There are also significant environmental benefits associated with hosting the games. The games partners, including Queensland, have committed to a climate-positive games through a range of initiatives, including: repurposing and upgrading existing infrastructure; building on Queensland's environmental credentials and policies in recycling, waste and building the hydrogen economy; and effective transport planning to encourage the use of public and active transport.

The opportunities presented by hosting the games support key areas of focus in Queensland's economic recovery plan, continuing our economic recovery as we respond to the global headwinds brought on by the pandemic. We are planning for the decade to come, preparing for the biggest event ever to be held in Brisbane and Queensland. It has the potential to fast-track and attract investment, facilitate infrastructure growth, increase Queensland's tourism and support Queensland and its people as we recover from the effects of COVID. The recent Tokyo Olympic Games was broadcast to more than 200 nations and territories and reached a global audience of more than five billion people.

In 2032 the focus will be on Queensland, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance trade and tourism and support our state as a global destination. There is no doubt, given our experience in successfully hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the passion and support of Queenslanders all over the state, that it will be a successful event.

We have a clear opportunity to plan for the 2032 Olympics and ensure decades of investment, growth and opportunity for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is wasting no time in preparing for this once-in-a-lifetime event. I am proud to be a member of a government which has ensured the largest sporting event in history will take place right here in Queensland.

In my own community, news of the Olympic Games being held here in Brisbane and around Queensland has been met with much excitement, perhaps nowhere more than in Stretton's large and growing community of badminton players. Every week, people old and young get together to play badminton at school halls around my local area.

You can play at Calamvale Community College, Warrigal Road State School, Sunnybank Hills State School and also at the Sky Badminton Centre just outside my electorate in Logan. These players, along with coaches and mums and dads, are excited about having gold medal singles and doubles events right here in Brisbane. They are excited about watching a final and, hopefully, watching a final with an Australian competing for a gold medal. It is easy to be excited about badminton. Madam Deputy Speaker, did you know that it is the fastest racquet sport in the world? In fact, the fastest serve in badminton ever recorded was at over 400 kilometres per hour! It is exciting stuff, but not as exciting as the future of badminton in our community.

With the Olympics on the way, it is clear to me and other badminton lovers in the electorate of Stretton that we need to do all we can to encourage the next generation of badminton champions in our community to achieve what Australia has not yet managed to achieve: an Olympic medal in badminton. It is time for Australia to take its rightful place at the top of world badminton, but we have a long way to go.

I am calling on the mums and dads of Stretton: if your child is a promising young athlete, if they have good reach and hand-eye coordination and if they can handle the excitement of badminton, then I encourage you to enrol your son or daughter in one of the many badminton clubs and organisations in my local area. There is the Sunnybank Hills Badminton Club, the Sky Badminton Centre, the Brisbane Taiwanese Sports Club, the Distinguished Citizens Society, the Gujarati community sports club and the Brisbane Maratha Warriors badminton club. Your children will need some serious court time. They will also need good coaching. The good news is that we have many fantastic local coaches in our area, many of whom have high-level international experience. For example, Drewvale local Ricky Yu, who works at Sky badminton, is a former Malaysian national team coach and former Australian team coach. They will need commitment and dedication to deliver gold for Australia, gold for Queensland and gold for the people of Stretton and hopefully our first ever Olympic medal in badminton. This is not impossible.

Recently I, along with the Minister for Transport, had the privilege of hearing from winter Olympic gold medallist and champion Steven Bradbury at the recent Motor Trades Association dinner. He shared his journey from Acacia Ridge to Olympic gold. Yes, he got a bit of luck along the way; however, he said that he took the gold not for his last race but for the thousands of hours of commitment, training and effort that he put in leading up to that point. My message to young badminton players in our local area is: be inspired by Steven Bradbury. You can do it. With a lot of effort and little bit of luck going your way, you could be the person who delivers Australia's first ever Olympic medal in badminton and you could even do it on home soil.

I also want to recognise the Olympians from my local area who went to Tokyo to compete in badminton: Wendy Chen from Parkinson, which is just outside my electorate, in the electorate of Algester; and Simon Leung, who does live in the Stretton electorate. Both of them played very well. They were eliminated in the group stages, unfortunately, but I commend them on their valiant efforts.

Another feature of the 2032 Olympics that many local organisations in my community are looking forward to is the opportunity for community engagement, in particular volunteering. We will need thousands of volunteers to welcome athletes and guests from around the world to Queensland. Local groups like the Sunnybank Hills Rotary club and the Karawatha Marching Band had firsthand experience of this, volunteering at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, with Sunnybank Hills Rotary helping as ushers and providing directions to the crowds and also helping in the athletes village, and the students of the Karawatha Marching Band, which is made up of local school students from around my electorate, entertaining crowds on their way to and from events.

A few locals were even involved in volunteering at the Sydney Olympics. Well-known Lions Club member John Moynihan was proud to volunteer at the Sydney Olympics. He enjoyed the experience immensely and recommends others sign up to volunteer for Brisbane 2032. In fact, he said it was one of the best weeks of his life.

The positive experience they have shared with me and others highlights just one of the many social benefits we will get from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Volunteering will play a significant role in the 2032 Olympics and will provide an opportunity for many Queenslanders and Australians to be involved in this spectacular moment in world history.

In 2021 the Tokyo games recruited up to 80,000 volunteers and each were expected to contribute 10 to 20 hours over the period of the games, which was equivalent to 800,000 volunteering hours at a minimum. Volunteers provided support in areas such as spectator services, competition operation and

media operation and were assigned to various locations including competition venues where a range of sports were staged and the athletes village. Volunteering categories included guides, events, mobility support, personal support, operational support, first aid and health care, media and also helping out at ceremonies. These roles will no doubt be required in 2032 and I would encourage all Stretton locals to get involved. I commend the bill to the House.