




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.11 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The Brisbane 2032 games will put Queensland in the international spotlight, creating opportunities to grow our economy through increased tourism and trade and accelerating the delivery of long-term plans needed for sustainable growth across Queensland, particularly in the South-East Queensland region.

It will market our state as a global destination and a place to do business. It will be a catalyst to enhance social, economic and environmental outcomes for our state, amplifying everything from health and active community initiatives to arts and culture, sustainability initiatives, tourism, trade and local business opportunities. Importantly, hosting the Brisbane 2032 games will be a transformational event that will unlock \$8.1 billion in economic and social benefits for Queensland and create 91,600 full-time-equivalent jobs across the state.

It will generate a 10-year pipeline of construction jobs, trade and investment opportunities and legacy projects that will benefit Queenslanders for decades to come. The games will deliver for all communities across the state, including Ipswich. Our proximity to Brisbane means that our local businesses can tap into a range of games related procurement opportunities.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting local businesses to get involved in Brisbane 2032 by developing a forward procurement plan for the next 11 years in partnership with our games partners. I talked about this yesterday in my MPI speech. We are encouraging businesses to register for the Buy Queensland supplier updates via the Brisbane 2032 webpage so that they can receive updates about Olympic procurement. As I said yesterday, as at 18 November, 2,435 supplier representatives had already registered their interest.

Ipswich has a proud sporting history, with over 150 grassroots sporting clubs producing many outstanding professional sportspeople who have competed nationally and internationally. We can lay claim—and we do—to Ash Barty, the world No. 1 ranked tennis player who recently won Wimbledon and won the 2019 French Open. I take a moment to congratulate Ash on her recent engagement to her long-term partner, Garry Kissick—a good Ipswich boy. I wish you both many long and happy years together.

We also proudly lay claim to Rugby League greats Allan Langer, Kevin and Kerrod Walters and Ali Briggshaw; cricket players Steve Watson and Craig McDermott; and Olympic swimmers Heath Ramsay and Leah Neale. Ipswich was also home to the late, great Paralympian Roy Fowler, who participated in four Paralympic Games over three decades from 1964 to 1988, winning six gold medals in lawn bowls and para swimming and three silver medals and one bronze in para archery. He also participated in the Sydney Olympic Games torch relay in 2000 at the age of 80.

At many of Ipswich's local sports clubs, kids are already aspiring to be future Olympians and Paralympians at the Brisbane 2032 games. That is why it is great to see that over the next two years the Queensland Academy of Sport will undertake a statewide search for around 400 talented young athletes, paving new elite sporting pathways all the way to the Brisbane 2032 games.

Another exciting reason to look forward to the Brisbane 2032 games is that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to unlock critical transport and sporting infrastructure that will have lasting benefits into the future. This will have enormous flow-on benefits for Ipswich. Transport infrastructure required to support Brisbane 2032 will first and foremost be designed to meet the needs of Queensland's growing population, and Ipswich is certainly growing. I want to make mention, as many on this side of the House have, of the huge impact Cross River Rail had on the games decision and how much it will benefit all those coming to the games and our growth.

Ipswich, as I am wont to tell everyone in this House whenever they listen, is ranked the fastest growing LGA in Queensland, with thousands of families and individuals moving to Ipswich each year. Over 6,000 people moved to Ipswich in the last financial year. It is critical that we support that rapid population growth through public transport infrastructure. This government has done a fantastic job.

I want to mention the \$200 million allocated to the Ipswich Motorway upgrade. It has changed people's lives.

Ms Pugh: Hear, hear!

Ms HOWARD: I take the member for Mount Ommaney's interjection. I know that the work that we have done on the Centenary Highway has helped unlock a lot of the traffic.

Ripley Valley, in my electorate, is the fastest growing SA2 area in the whole of Queensland. This area will be home to over 120,000 people by 2041. A rail line servicing this area will reduce private vehicle usage, improve traffic flow on our major arterial roads and deliver a more efficient transport network for South-East Queensland, particularly as we head into the 2032 games. I acknowledge our government's contribution to the Springfield to Ipswich train line. Thousands of people make Ipswich their home for reasons such as the affordable housing and the laid-back lifestyle our city has to offer.

As more people call Ipswich home, we need transport options in new greenfield suburbs. We do not want people to develop the habit of using their private vehicles to commute. We want them to have a public transport mindset to help our environment. Ipswich's growth is having an impact on our major arterial roads. The Centenary Highway is very busy during peak hour. I am pleased to see our investment in that space in the time to come.

I am pleased to see also that in the lead-up to the 2032 games there will be more discussions to come between funding partners to examine opportunities to bring forward additional transport infrastructure in time for Brisbane 2032. Enhancing our road and public transport network will mean that our athletes, spectators, workers and volunteers can get around to venues more efficiently and enjoy comfortable travel times and service levels. More importantly, these transport infrastructure enhancements will achieve long-term benefits for all Queenslanders after the games are over. In the lead-up to the federal election, I express my disappointment that the federal government has not put any money on the table for the essential transport infrastructure that we need in Ipswich.

Brisbane 2032 will also unlock sporting infrastructure that will achieve long-term outcomes for communities beyond the games. New facilities will be purpose designed to meet local community participation needs first and foremost before being converted to games competition venues and then returned to the community. Under the Brisbane 2032 games venues master plan, Ipswich is set to host the modern pentathlon event at Ipswich stadium, also known as Brighton Homes Arena, currently under construction in Springfield, in the member for Jordan's electorate. The games could also potentially see more Ipswich venues considered as the 2032 games masterplan develops. I would be a strong advocate for using the North Ipswich Reserve Stadium as an additional games venue to host sporting events or to be used—

Mr Madden: Hear, hear!

Ms HOWARD: I take the interjection from the member for Ipswich West who is a vocal advocate for that stadium.

Mr Saunders: Good local member.

Ms HOWARD: He is an excellent local member. This would catalyse the upgrade of the North Ipswich Reserve Stadium turning it into a world-class sporting facility that will serve Ipswich's long-term sporting needs into the future. The upgrade of North Ipswich Reserve Stadium was part of the Ipswich Jets' recent NRL bid. Although the Jets were not able to secure that bid, there is still a strong desire to see the stadium upgraded.

A stadium in the heart of Ipswich is what is needed to revitalise our city, create jobs during and after the construction phase and deliver a world-class sporting facility that will put Ipswich on the map as a major drawcard destination. Considering the federal government in its last budget overlooked the

North Ipswich Reserve Stadium for an upgrade, the 2032 games could be the catalyst that potentially sees this upgrade delivered. I will be sure to fight hard, along with my neighbour the member for Ipswich West, to see this happen.

The Brisbane 2032 organising committee, or corporation, that is being established under this bill will allow for operational and financial independence and flexibility to achieve the 2032 objectives, whilst ensuring an appropriate level of public accountability. The corporation has a massive task ahead of it, with responsibilities ranging from events and ceremonies, such as the Olympic and Paralympic torch relays and the opening and closing ceremonies, to accommodation and transport for competitors, officials and media, and managing the thousands of volunteers who will welcome our athletes and guests to Queensland.

If we want to deliver a games that represents the best that Queensland has to offer to the world then an inclusive board membership is a must. There are few events in our lifetime that bring forth massive opportunities to shape and grow our region. Ipswich, with its close proximity to Brisbane, is in a prime position to capitalise on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that the 2032 games bring. Whether you are a fan of the Olympics or not—and I have not met anyone who is not—we can say with a high degree of certainty that the 2032 games will benefit all Queenslanders either directly or indirectly. They will generate an estimated \$4.6 billion boost to Queensland's tourism and trade.

As many on both sides of the House have mentioned, Brisbane is set to be on the world stage. Just like Sydney was in the 2000 Olympics, we will be recognised across the world as a great city in this state. I am really proud to be a part of it. Hosting this event in Queensland comes with an enormous responsibility, but I know that we are up to it.

(Time expired)