



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.38 pm): If there was a medal for talking up your electorate, I like to think I would be in the running for gold. ‘Pugh32’: you can have your T-shirts printed now. I do not know if they will make it a medal event! It will surprise no-one that my contribution will focus on the regional benefits to my fast-growing community.

As members can tell, I am beyond excited about the upcoming Olympics. It might be 11 years away, but as the parent of a 12-year-old I know that the time will go just like that. That is why it is so very important that we prepare now for the infrastructure needs that the Olympics and Brisbane 2032 will require, and for my community that begins with the Centenary Motorway upgrade.

Members will be aware that the Centenary upgrade in Jindalee is due to start early next year. If they are not aware, they have been sleeping under a rock; I talk about it all of the time. The design has proposed a new three-lane northbound bridge and rehabilitation of the existing bridges to three lanes southbound plus fantastic improved active transport and a beautiful cycleway. In a nutshell, it means less time in traffic for my westside locals. It is no secret that I have been a huge advocate for this project along with my colleagues the members for Bundamba, Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan, to name just a few. Their support for the project has been instrumental in getting funding from the state government for the first stage—thank you very much, Treasurer—along with our good friend the federal member for Oxley, Milton Dick, who secured the funds from the federal government for the other half of the project. Together we have put forward a strong case for the project, and this is just the first stage because, as the TMR documentation identifies, eventually we will need to do the entire corridor.

Right next to the bridge is the famous Jindalee Skate Park. It is a fantastically well loved piece of community infrastructure. I thank the Transport and Main Roads team for listening to the community feedback and ensuring that it was able to design the bridge to make sure we did not have to resume the skate park when we upgrade the bridge. It is absolutely fantastic news. There are a lot of young people in my community and beyond who use that skate park. Whether those young people go on to become Olympic champions or not, the point is thanks to these Olympics they have that opportunity, because who knows? The next soccer superstar could be playing at St Cats or the Centenary Stormers or even Oxley United. Our future decathlon champions could be training this Friday night at Centenary Little As. Our basketballers could be hard at work right now at the westside Falcons. With over 50 teams, there is plenty of talent to choose from. Perhaps we will see the hockey players from South West United storm home with the gold.

Finally, I want to reflect on the words of our housing minister at a recent event for Indigenous small business hosted at Parliament House about the opportunities for storytelling at the Olympics. We all recall the importance of the story that was created at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney Olympics. It is an opportunity for the host nation to showcase its culture. Thematically speaking, I am very excited for the opportunity to have our First Nations people placed front and centre as we tell the story of Brisbane and Queensland—all 60,000 years of it. We have spoken before about how the

Olympics will put us as a city on the world stage, and the Minister for Housing noted that we have the opportunity to showcase our amazing First Nations culture when we have that global platform. This is so important as we seek in Queensland to advance the Path to Treaty.

At the last Olympics members will recall that we made Nikki Webster famous. I have heard some people call to bring Nikki back at these Olympics. No disrespect to the wonderful Ms Webster—my sister Genevieve and I are proud owners of the *Strawberry Kisses* single, and it is a total banger; I especially love the seven-minute remix because it is fantastic, so give it a listen—but instead of looking exclusively to the past I think we need to ask ourselves what First Nations artist could we give a platform to at this Olympics. I will leave members with that thought and I commend the bill to the House.