




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.27 pm): From the outset I say that my contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 will be unashamedly regional—the best part of Queensland. I enjoyed hearing about the member for Chatsworth’s brush with Olympians and I have a few names to throw out myself. Cathy Freeman grew up down the road from me. Although they did not all live in my street I also acknowledge Geoff Huegill, Linda Mackenzie, Tracey Belbin, Nick Ffrost, Beau Menzies, Baeden Choppy, Cobi Crispin who all have one thing in common—that is, they have all competed at an Olympics or Paralympics Games and at one time have lived in the great City of Mackay. Our great champions, Benita and Caitlyn Willis, have also competed on the world stage. The list could go on but I have only 10 minutes in which to speak.

Regional areas of Queensland, such as mine, are the nurseries for Australia’s Olympians and Paralympians. The 2032 Brisbane Olympics are exciting for not just the south-east but also all up-and-coming athletes. They all have their eye on representing Australia at the great games. When I speak to young people in my region, they all tell me that they are dreaming about representing Australia in front of a home crowd. The 2032 games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for athletes from all over Australia.

Regional Queensland is also gearing up for the once-in-a-lifetime economic development that is not just for the south-east but all of Queensland. My region is looking at how we can get ready and take full advantage. The primary objectives of the bill are to—

- establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Corporation) to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
- establish a board of directors of the Corporation (the Board) to ensure the Corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

This bill is in keeping with the obligations of the Olympic host contract. The IOC entrusts the state of Queensland, Brisbane City Council and the Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging of Brisbane 2032 in accordance with the terms of the Olympic host contract, the IOC’s Olympic Charter.

All Queenslanders want to be included and compete for the economic opportunities that the games will bring. Clause 10 requires that the corporation procure its goods and services in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy, except where inconsistent with the Olympic host contract. Engaging local industry and ensuring jobs are two objectives of the Palaszczuk government. Clause 10 of the bill will ensure that Queensland businesses can capitalise on the decades of investment, growth and opportunity that Brisbane 2032 will bring to Queensland.

The world spotlight will be on Queensland pre and post the games. This exposure will attract interstate and international visitors for tourism and visitor investment. In regional Queensland, we have some of the best and innovative engineering and manufacturing. We want some of the economic opportunities that this focus will bring. With the support of the Mackay manufacturing hub established

by the Palaszczuk government, we will be ready to sell our skills and goods to the new markets across the world. We are ready to be in the mix of the expected \$8.1 billion in national trade and investment expected in Australia to be generated by the games.

Expertise in my regions centres on the resource sector, emerging industries, food manufacturing and the bio futures space. The Mercurius trial plant positioned at the QUT research centre at Racecourse Mill could very well be producing the green low emission bio jet fuel developed from the by-product in sugar milling, the bagasse. It will be fuelling the green fuel aeroplanes that will be bringing thousands of visitors to our shores. Entrepreneurs are already testing innovations in the resource sector in the Mackay Resources Centre of Excellence. Biannually, we host the largest resource trade show expo in the Southern Hemisphere. Leading into the games, Queensland's exposure will only enhance participants from this expo from around the globe, promoting all of Australia's innovations and products in the resource industry.

The international focus is a unique opportunity to sell Australia as a safe travel destination and to promote our vast range of experiences. Our state and local campaigns to woo visitors need to be ready with our holiday experiences and products in tiptop condition. When people travel to Australia, they will experience world-class tourism ventures across Mackay, Isaac and the Whitsunday region. With the injection of nearly \$900,000, the Palaszczuk government has invested in Wild Cat which has just launched in my region. Wild Cat is an extension of Red Cat Adventures that already operate in the Whitsundays. They are ready to take visitors to our pristine islands and beautiful reefs.

Marine Safety Queensland is in the process of cleaning up our waterways and is cleaning up all of the sunken sea vessels. This will ensure that our waterways and sea adventures will be truly ready to shine in welcoming visitors. We are building a reputation for adventure tourism. Our mountain bike tracks, our fishing experience and all the natural beauty of the environment will encourage people to keep returning to the region well past the games. Our region produces some of the best food in the world, some of the best seafood—wild caught and farmed—beef, cattle, fruit and vegetables. We are developing a future foods industry that will be ready to feed the many visitors to Queensland and also open up potential export markets for the product.

Regional Queensland is also the most talented. Regional Queensland has one of the largest eisteddfods in the state. I believe that all the entertainment for the games will come from regional Queensland as well. Do not worry South-East Queensland, we will leave a few opportunities for you! The sporting clubs in my region have already rolled up their sleeves and are planning and undertaking development for their different facilities. We want to attract people from all countries and invite them to come to my region to start preparing with pre-game training and acclimatise to Australia. We have the facilities, and what we do not have we are building.

We have already proven that we can host world-class matches and games. Recently, the Australian women's cricket team played India in thrilling one-day matches. We have hosted NRL and AFL matches. Regional Queensland is ready to go. The Mackay Gymnastic Association has its plans to join up and is making contacts with international gymnast communities to host them pregames. The shovels are ready to go at the Great Barrier Reef Arena. We are ready to break ground on the \$24 million project that will be completed by the end of 2022. We will then be ready for stage 2.

I am sorry to the member for Nanango, but Mackay has the Sugar Bowl—the best skate bowl in Queensland. The skaters will be heading to Mackay. We can also host netball at our 16 high-quality courts. We have the Mackay Aquatic Recreation Complex, Olympic swimming pools, Olympic standard running tracks. We also have all the other facilities for athletes—discus, shot put, long jump, high jump and all the other sports that are played out there.

I sincerely hope that we will see sailing in the Whitsundays—not just training but Olympic races. We could have parasailing as well. The Mackay region is ready to go. We could take the whole Olympic Games into my region.