




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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### **BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021**

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.02 pm): When Brisbane hosts the 35th Olympics in 2032, it will provide an extraordinary platform from which to showcase our great state. It will provide significant and measurable economic and social impacts for Brisbane, Queensland and, indeed, the nation. Westpac and KPMG have estimated that hosting the games will bring about \$17 billion in benefits to our country and over \$8 billion in benefits to Queensland, including a \$4.6 billion economic boost to tourism and trade and \$3½ billion in social improvements such as health, volunteering and community services. It will leave a legacy of new and enhanced sporting, transport and community infrastructure.

It will provide an opportunity to showcase that Queensland is a safe, welcoming and inclusive community where everyone can find their place and everyone belongs—a community where people can achieve their hopes and aspirations irrespective of their cultural background, religion, language or the colour of their skin. Queensland is home to people from 220 different countries and territories who speak more than 180 languages and identify with over 110 different faiths. It is our differences that make us stronger as a state. It is when we move beyond merely tolerating or even accepting diversity to celebrating it that we are truly able to harness its opportunities. These are the values and the vision espoused by our government's Multicultural Recognition Act. These are also the values espoused by the Olympic movement—to build a peaceful and better world through sport.

The games have come a long way since the first modern Olympics were held in 1896. I understand that the games in Athens featured 241 men—women were not invited—from 14 countries, competing for 43 gold medals across 10 sporting disciplines. Today athletes come from across the world, men and women representing the diversity of cultures, and for one brief period all play by the same rules and are assessed against the same standards—a level playing field.

The athletes who compete at the Olympics will be an inspiration to millions of young people, not just in Australia but around the world. Two-thirds of competitors who competed in Tokyo 2020 were in their 20s and the average age of Australian Olympians at the Tokyo Olympics was 27. It is the 600,000 Queensland children and teenagers who are currently aged between nine and 19 years old who will make up the bulk of our future Olympians.

Who will they be? Since the announcement by our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, that Queensland had won the games, young Queenslanders in classrooms, sporting clubs and homes across the state have begun to dream that it could be one of them. They could be the next Emma McKeon, Cathy Freeman or Anna Meares or the next Samantha Stosur, Peter Bol or Nudgee's own Will Martin—our gold medallist swimmer.

I take a moment to honour Will's contribution to my local community and to Queensland. When Will was six years old he suffered a stroke which left him with a tremor in his right arm and blindness in his right eye. Will went through four months of rehabilitation where he had to learn to walk and talk again and learn to use his left hand for writing, which is no mean feat when one is right-handed. Because

of the stroke Will was not able to participate in contact sports and he became interested in swimming. He started training and joined his old school haunt Nudgee swimming club. He did not think he was fast, but he said he would give it a go. He gave it his best.

Will pulled on the green and gold and represented Australia on the international stage at the para swimming championships in London in 2019. In August of this year, Will put all of his 4.30 am starts six days a week to the test on the world stage at the Tokyo Olympics. Against stiff competition he competed in the 50-metre freestyle, 400-metre freestyle, 100-metre butterfly—his favourite event—and relay events. With his country, his community and his beautiful family behind him, Will blitzed the field. He won three gold and one silver medal. He holds two world records and one Paralympic record. It was an absolutely outstanding effort and so exciting to watch. The key message here is not only how hard he worked for those medals but also how sport is a great equaliser. It does not matter where someone comes from or whom someone comes from, everybody can dream of getting there if they apply themselves and train hard.

Which local clubs will our future Olympians come from? Maybe our next Queensland swimming sensation will hail from the Nundah Sharks, the Boondall Barracudas, the Virginia Dolphins or the Nudgee swimming club. Maybe our next sensation will come from one of our other quality sporting clubs in the Nudgee electorate: Boss Boxing, Wizards Basketball, Goju Kai Karate at Boondall, Kyushin Judo, Sikukan Karate Club at Wavell Heights, North Brisbane Weightlifting Association, Virginia and Nudgee golf clubs or my chosen sport—if I suddenly morph into a future Olympic champion—the Hendra Pony Club for equestrian feats.

Where will the international teams train and acclimatise prior to the games? My electorate of Nudgee is seven minutes from the domestic and international airports, 20 minutes from the city and Gabba and located on the Gateway Motorway with direct access to both the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. With the Olympic athletics track at St Joseph's Nudgee College used by the Australian and American track and field teams in preparation for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the Nudgee College pool—the training ground for current Paralympian dual gold medallist swimmer, Will Martin—maybe teams in 2032 will train at our local school. They might train at our sporting fields at the Australian Catholic University at Banyo. The university has ample land to build more facilities, I will put on the record. They might train at the Zillmere basketball facility or with our top-quality coaches at Virginia United Football Club.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** I take the interjection about Zillmere from my colleague. We know it is a wonderful club. I acknowledge the members for Aspley and Sandgate who equally love that brilliant club. My north side community stands ready to answer the call for the 2032 Olympics.

In addition to the growth of new sporting talent, the games will spur new and enhanced strength and conditioning, human movement and biometric capability. Elite sporting bodies and teams will relocate here. Technology firms will invest and new partnerships will be formed between government, business and industry—both local and across international borders. The opportunities and benefits to flow from the games, both pre and post, are endless.

The bill before the House establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The committee will have the important role of organising and promoting the games, but it is for all Queenslanders to take stock of where we are now and where we want to be. We are provided with the rare opportunity to shape and make a deliberate plan on how we want to present Queensland to the world in 2032.

I am excited by the opportunities the games present to showcase with pride that we live in a country with the oldest continuing culture and to see our First Nation communities—their dance, music, art and culture—taking centre stage in telling the story of this land, to see the natural beauty of our beaches, reefs, mountains and outback seen by visitors from around the world. I am excited to see local businesses, manufacturers and workers build and service the Games Village, venues and organisation of the event; to see the amazing volunteering spirit of Queenslanders and Australians on display; to see community pride and connections grow as local businesses, industry and Queenslanders actively participate in co-creating the event; and to have a conversation about how the games serve broader social goals. The games must be for everyone, and the economic and social prosperity must be shared by all Queenslanders. It cannot be for some and not for all.

I look forward to the journey ahead, to making a contribution to how the Queensland of 2021 will inform the Queensland of 2032 and to see my community and all Queenslanders have the opportunity to do likewise. I commend the bill to the House.