




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.45 pm): Many members here have spoken about the incredible events we have put on in this region: the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast and the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. We have to remember that in this place the Jagera-speaking peoples, the First Nations people, have gathered and put on sporting contests—indeed, especially on the Gabba—for perhaps thousands of years. It is right and proper that we recognise that this is a continuing history. It is right and proper that we recognise that this bill wants to include Aboriginal people in the formation of the board and speaks about a reconciliation action plan, knowing that our partnerships with the Aboriginal people of this region and indeed the whole state will be central to the wonderful event we will put on.

I want to speak about conflicts of interest. Many members may be thinking that I would be a participant in the games in 2032, but that is not the case. I think we all have a fantastic conflict of interest in that we will all benefit so much. I have another conflict of interest in that my children will be inspired by the games and the ability of those who take part in such a world-class event. That is a conflict of interest that we all share and it is a wonderful one.

One of my first memories of the Olympic Games is of Daley Thompson winning a gold medal in the decathlon in 1980. He and many other athletes inspired me to do Little As. That is why I was so passionate—many members will have noticed—about a Jimboomba Little As athlete, Ash Moloney, becoming the very first Australian to win a medal in the decathlon, which is a truly exceptional all-rounder event. My interest was piqued in Tokyo when I saw Ash build and build and when I looked at his points total. I knew that he was definitely in medal contention before the last event, the 1,500 metres. Famously, Daley Thompson was absolutely hopeless at the 1,500. Although he was the decathlon world record holder, he would consistently finish last in the 1,500. I wondered whether Ash was the same sort of athlete—someone who could get points in all of the other events but then fail. That was my worry. I looked up his previous event results and worked out exactly how many seconds behind he had to finish and knew that he was still in medal contention. It was incredibly exciting to see that event and see him deliver one of his best performances. It was certainly a clutch performance. Those are the types of inspiring things we will see in our own Brisbane Olympic Games.

As I said, I did Little As. Sydney to me was very special because of two of the guys who did Little As with me at the Sunnybank Little Athletics club: 'Jumping' Jai Taurima, who won a silver medal in the long jump; and Blair Young, a great friend of mine and high school teacher, who competed in the 400-metre hurdles and the 4x400-metre relay.

Those were really inspirational connections to our own home games in Sydney and it is going to be even more incredible to share those stories of the next games. There is then how much of a contribution we make to international friendship, international solidarity and international partnerships. We heard some contributors be cynical about the games, but I think those who are hosting these games should celebrate the fact that when we come together to compete vigorously as nations we do so peacefully under the banner of the Olympic Committee and we contribute so much to world peace and

so much to world understanding and so much to world connection. Indeed, at the Commonwealth Games we made so many business connections and so many connections for industry through that friendship and fellowship. This Olympic Games opens up an even greater capacity for those in the world to share and have fellowship and friendship, and of course the greater Queensland and Australian community will no doubt benefit from the games.

The Queensland Olympics is really a recognition—a recognition of not just the fantastic resources we have in the South-East Queensland region and not just that we did a great job on the Commonwealth Games with reasonable costs in terms of events going forward; it is also a recognition of the health response that this nation and especially this state put in place. The IOC saw a great partner ready to make hard decisions about health and resources to get results and it knew that that was the type of partner it wanted to go forward with. Some might say that other nations were so swamped by COVID that they were not ready to put in a bid, but I like to put it in the positive in that the Premier's health response showed the IOC that, although it was already on track to take the bid from Brisbane, we were absolutely the right people to partner with because we had the ability to make those tough decisions to keep our community healthy.

I wish to speak to the committee's role. We examined the bill and asked for submissions and then held hearings. I thank the department for the excellent work it did in providing us with information and feedback, and that is why we as a committee very proudly and unanimously recommended that the bill be passed to set this up. We noted that submitters wanted an inclusive, consultative approach and we asked that the government continue to explain what will be going on. I am really proud of the fact that the three ministers involved in this are absolutely committed to that through the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Paralympics and consultation with the community where we are leaving a fantastic legacy. Recommendation 3 notes that the commissions are going to be vital in delivering on that. The commissions will be the bodies that take in community feedback, even to the point of single sites, and make sure that communities are consulted. There are some technical amendments to do with quorum. Recommendations 5 and 6 are the difficult ones for the committee. We note that this is a partnership. We are working with the federal government, and working very successfully and we wish to continue that, so this is not to be critical or destructive of that fantastic partnership. We are working with the IOC and we are not giving it ultimatums. Rather, we are working very much in partnership.

On that issue, I have to note that I was really disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition failed to understand some of the broader issues to do with the Right to Information Act and wished to play politics on it when we know that we have to work with the Olympic Committee going forward. I wish to see us work with it to show that, under the new norm, part of it should be modern governance instruments that give confidence to local communities, and I know that we will do that as much as possible. We also note that the provisions under our Right to Information Act would be commercial-in-confidence where there are those arrangements and we need to work through that with the International Olympic Committee to see how we can best incorporate that and give it confidence under this new norm structure.

I also note that we need to have that same partnership with the Commonwealth. I applaud the deputy chair, who questioned the federal government's request to exempt its members from CCC legislation. I would urge that the bill be passed without amendment but that the federal government take on board some of the comments from the deputy chair and ask for some future amendment when we are looking at a different bill. However, I want to remind the House that it is vitally important that we put this infrastructure in place and that as a government we work hard with all partners given that the Olympics minister reminded us that we have only 3,887 days left. Also very importantly, for those who had concerns about the financing of the budget, this is a very different Olympics from, say, Rio or Montreal. These games will be under the new norm where over 80 per cent of the venues are done under existing investment. As the minister said, we will have a fantastic new Gabba. Although it will be fantastic and the right size for our city, it will be the smallest main stadium and presents great value and a great legacy going forward. I commend the bill to the House.