




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.54 am): This bill is a very significant bill for a very significant event that will change this state forever in a very good way. To have the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Queensland is a great honour, but it also shows where this state is at in terms of being able to put on the biggest event in the world. As a kid who grew up in sleepy old Brisbane under Joh Bjelke-Petersen, that is well beyond most people's imaginations but here we are because of the strong leadership of this Premier and this government. We believe in this state. We do not believe in cutting things to ribbons like those opposite; we believe in building, jobs and infrastructure. That is what we have done from day one right across the state.

Mr Harper: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa, who understands what infrastructure is all about, with Riverway Drive and Townsville Ring Road 5.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Maryborough understands that as well. They are both great advocates. We are debating a bill that is setting up and getting ready for the games. The games is about the sporting event, but it is also about the infrastructure for a growing state. This state has been incredibly successful in combatting COVID; we are one of the best jurisdictions in the world for doing so. That meant that, when the borders opened towards the end of last year and earlier this year, we saw a stampede of people from the southern states coming to our state because we are the future. As the borders open up, that will accelerate even further—as people desert Melbourne and Sydney and come to Queensland for the opportunities not just in South-East Queensland but across regional Queensland too.

We need the infrastructure for those people as well as our residents to ensure that we keep up. With the Olympic and Paralympic Games, this city and this state will become as well known as Sydney worldwide—think about that for a moment. As we ramp up towards the games, Brisbane, Queensland, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast will be on the world stage. It will change this state forever in a very good way.

How did we get here? Because this government invested in the infrastructure that was crucial to us winning the bid—like Cross River Rail. That was 100 per cent funded by us after the federal government let us down terribly and would not work with us. We know they do not work with us on quarantine, the vaccine or the COVID response. They did not work with us long before that on infrastructure. One of the good things about the Premier landing the Olympic and Paralympic Games is that it locks the federal government into 50 per cent funding for major infrastructure. Hopefully, some of those arguments and that lack of cooperation will be reduced going forward. Let us hope we have a different federal government and it will be a lot easier working with a federal government that understands Queensland and does not work against us at every opportunity. Cross River Rail was essential to the bid. As I outlined earlier today, it is transformational. It has created a lot of economic value right across the state in terms of suppliers and it will continue to do so.

One of the great things about the games is that all parts of the state will benefit. There will be an enormous number of things to supply in terms of infrastructure for the actual event itself, in the lead-up, in the venues, right across this state. I note the member for Hill was putting in a bid for some roads and things in his electorate, as other members are doing. That is to be expected, but the fact is that there has never been more money going to regional roads than there is now under the Palaszczuk Labor government. We have had six record budgets out of seven, plus four stimulus packages.

Anyone who has been on regional roads cannot miss it. They cannot miss how much is going on right now. We are committed to that infrastructure and we will keep doing it because we do not believe in the cuts we saw from those opposite for the three years they were in government when the member for Broadwater sat around with then premier Newman, who he called 'someone special', and cut to ribbons things in our state. If they had been re-elected, we would not have the games—there is no doubt about that—we would not have had the infrastructure, we would not have had the leadership and we would not have been ready.

I remember that the management of the Commonwealth Games was highly contested. As the Minister for Transport, I stood up regularly to defend our transport plan which was thoroughly organised and researched. Day after day, there were attacks from those opposite. When the games came, it worked incredibly well and it was very smooth. The effective running of the Commonwealth Games showed that we had the skills and the wherewithal to do something larger—and not with any help from those opposite, who were constant critics of our Commonwealth Games strategies. The games ran very well. That gave us the stepping stone to be able to get the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This bill sets up the governance around that and how we work with the federal government going forward and how we look at the coordination of the venues with the transport infrastructure.

I note that the member for Glass House spoke earlier. He rewrote history there a little because the Sunshine Coast got nothing under the Newman government. They did not even start a business case for the Sunshine Coast rail duplication, yet here we are under the Palaszczuk government with a record spend on road and rail infrastructure in the Sunshine Coast region. There are two new members on the Sunshine Coast who are doing a fantastic job, in Caloundra and Nicklin. The Mons Road and Maroochydore Road Bruce Highway upgrades are going very well. There was a near billion dollar investment to finish the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway. The Bells Creek Arterial and the Mooloolah River Interchange were funded and done by this government, not by those opposite. The Gympie bypass is well and truly underway. We are seeing incredible amounts of infrastructure. The six-laning of the Bruce Highway from Steve Irwin Way to the Bribie Island turn-off was started and done by this government—

Ms King interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I take the interjection from the member for Pumicestone, who is a huge advocate for that infrastructure. We believe in jobs and infrastructure. That is an essential part of our commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is a parallel strategy about not just putting on the best event in the world but also building a decade of infrastructure and jobs for this state.

I note as well that, of course, it is a statewide games. We will be having events in Cairns and in Townsville. Where we will be having events in Townsville? At the stadium that this Premier and this government created. It is an awesome stadium. It is a distinctive stadium. It looks fantastic. It is a great stadium to enjoy. It is a great stadium on TV. It will be a great venue when it comes to the worldwide telecast of the Olympic and Paralympic Games from Townsville, Cairns, Whitsundays, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane. We have to think about the profound nature of what is going to change in this state when the world looks at us and sees what we have. It is going to be something very special. This bill sets us up in terms of that governance and I look forward to us being able to knit that together in our relationship with the federal government.

There is a lot of work to do, of course. The venues will need to be finalised. There will be a lot of consideration. While some of those venues are very clear, not all of them are finalised. We will need to see those decisions made formally, and then flowing from that will be implications for transport infrastructure. For instance, the extra trains that we are ordering—built in Maryborough by Maryborough workers—will be an important part of growing the rail network, as will the rail upgrades such as Kuraby to Beenleigh; faster rail between the Gold Coast, Logan and Brisbane; the Sunshine Coast rail duplication; and Cross River Rail on tap in 2025. The foresight of this government to 100 per cent fund Cross River Rail has paid us dividends to the max. We are well placed.

There is a lot of work to do. We have an 11-year time frame. It will be a productive and challenging but fruitful process of working through the sequencing in terms of the venues and the infrastructure, but I look forward to the great opportunities that are there, particularly with the new or revamped venues, Brisbane Live and the Gabba. The Gabba is already a well-renowned cricket stadium. There is a great

opportunity there for design innovation and for this games to be something that gives our state a wow factor when people look at the coverage of the games. We want to people to say, 'Oh my God, I have to come to Queensland. I have to come to all of these different places.' They will be enjoying a part of the world that has never had so much coverage.

I commend the bill to the House. It is the first bill here in relation to the games. It will set us up very well. For us to be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games is a profound achievement and I look forward to working on that with all members of this government, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Sport. It will be an incredible time for this state.