




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (12.47 pm): I rise to support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I thank the Premier for having the commitment to travel to Tokyo to secure these fantastic games for Queensland. Every Queenslanders should be proud of what she has done and what this government is delivering leading up to the games and further afield. I thank the chair of the Economic and Governance Committee, the member for Logan, and the other members of the committee for their work on this legislation.

This bill establishes the Organising Committee for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The committee will be a statutory body that can operate at arm's length from the Queensland government. It will give the board of directors and the CEO the necessary independence to achieve the objective of hosting a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games here in Queensland in 2032 while also operating under a level of public accountability. Similar committees have been set up by previous host cities. Who could forget the Sydney Olympic Games 2000. What a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games that was.

I note the statement of reservation from the opposition members on the committee. They also say this bill has bipartisan support. I listened with interest to the member for Chatsworth's contribution. No doubt it was a fine audition for a leadership challenge in the new year.

They also say the government needs to build infrastructure that will benefit all Queenslanders. They only have to go for a short walk from this House and see what is happening in Albert Street. Cross River Rail—a legacy-building game changer for the people of Brisbane—is being constructed as we speak. The minister spoke the other day about the boring machine breaking through for that particular leg. No doubt all of those tourists and people wishing to go to the games will be able to get there in time and with no issues.

The LNP only have to travel anywhere in Queensland to see the infrastructure that is being built to benefit all Queenslanders now and into the future—like the Smithfield Bypass in Cairns which was opened just last week and the Rookwood Weir near Rockhampton. This record-breaking infrastructure will benefit not only my portfolio but many areas surrounding Rockhampton with growth and jobs in Queensland.

There is the \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund—a more productive kind of hot air than what we normally get from those opposite. Also, in their statement of reservation, the LNP want to see more skilling and training. Where have they been in the last six years? Just this year the Palaszczuk government announced \$25 million for a pre-apprenticeship support program to help Queenslanders secure the training they need for the job they want. In my portfolio alone we are investing nearly \$12 million over the next four years on upgrading or building new agricultural training facilities in high schools across this state. That is on top of our hugely successful Agribusiness Gateway to Industry Schools program.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games do not just mean benefits for Brisbane and the south-east. It will have massive benefits right across Queensland and for our primary producers. I have been extremely fortunate to have travelled the length and breadth of this state as part of my portfolio. I have seen how Queensland food and fibre is produced and how Queensland seafood is harvested. I can see why it is world-class and sought after right around the world. That is why our farmers have a reputation in the export market as consistently having the cleanest, greenest and best produce.

With the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Queensland farmers will have a captive audience of billions. What better way to showcase Queensland produce to more markets around the world? Since coming to government in 2015, we have worked hard to help our farmers do what they do best. Take, for example, our Rural Economic Development Grants.

In the last term of government, \$10 million was given in matched grants to businesses to expand their operations and, more importantly, grow jobs in regional Queensland. Some of those jobs are in your electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker Krause. These grants have created 1,800 direct and indirect jobs right across this great state and have seen agribusinesses flourish—businesses like Kialla Pure Foods on the Darling Downs, who saw demand for their organic flour products increase 300 per cent during the height of the pandemic last year. They were able to meet that demand, thanks to the RED Grants that we provided them.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind producers that there is still time to put in an expression of interest for the next round of RED Grants funding of \$3.3 million. It was part of our election commitment last year. I know these grants will help our producers realise their full potential in time to show off their produce at the 2032 Olympics. We will be feeding thousands and thousands of overseas and interstate visitors and Queenslanders during those Games. That is why we need and will supply good Queensland produce in 2032 and beyond.

Our beef industry is second to none. Earlier this year we had what has been described as the Olympics of beef—Beef Australia 2021 in Rockhampton. It was a wonderful week showcasing all that is great about our cattle industry. I was very proud to be named by Bryce Camm the ‘Minister for Beef’. I will continue supporting that great industry, as every member in this government does.

I cannot wait to see Queensland beef being enjoyed by the world’s athletes at the Athletes Village in 2032, just as it was by our Aussies at the Tokyo games earlier this year. After all, beef is a gold medal Queensland agricultural export. It is not just the cattle industry that will benefit. It is all commodities from fresh Queensland seafood to top quality fruits and vegetables, not to mention the cotton grown on the Darling Downs and in Central Queensland that may, no doubt, end up in the uniforms being worn by our Olympic athletes as they walk into a redeveloped Gabba in 2032. That is what this bill does—it sets up the functions, the structure and the organisation now to ensure that we can harness the wonderful opportunities available to us to ensure Queensland farmers make the most of the games in 2032.

What this bill and this event means for Ferny Grove is immense. There are few debates in this place that will resonate strongly in the community for years to come—and resonate in such a positive way. To all children of today: this organising committee will set a future that will see world-class sporting events take place here in Queensland, sporting events that they can aspire to be involved in, whether they will be the Olympians of tomorrow or whether they will be a volunteer at the games or work at the games. Importantly, those children will grow to become apprentices or workers involved in the construction and fit-out of these games venues over the years to come. I cannot highlight more strongly what these games will mean not just to my community but to communities across Queensland in the coming years and when the Olympics takes place.

It is important to realise that Queensland has a special opportunity to plan for these games longer than many other hosts. This bill will ensure that this planning will leave Queensland with infrastructure and facilities that will not be white elephants but will be key resources for the years to come.

Queensland has already experienced the world coming to our state and what that has meant for our development and reputation as a state. Many may not remember the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982 or maybe just the memory of the special XXXX beer! Many Queenslanders and Australians will remember Expo 88—a game changer for Queensland, leaving a legacy right across Queensland. Even here at Parliament House we have statues from that event, as well as those from outside the old primary industries building that are now on display in Longreach.

Three years ago I had the pleasure to attend some of the events at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. What a showcase to the world that was! It was a huge success not only for those who attended but also for those who had the opportunity to see the fine display of athletes from right around the world. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I am sure that the then minister for sport in his capacity and every other person who attended those games would be proud of that. You would think that every member on the Gold Coast would support the good outcomes of those games as well.

The Commonwealth Games highlighted the ongoing success of showcasing Queensland to the world. That is what the Olympic Games will do. It will showcase what we will be supplying, not only our produce but also the fine infrastructure that will be built for those games into the future. This is a great opportunity for us to be showcased to the world. In closing, I want to express the opportunity and the value gained from the commitment of our fine Premier in making sure we secured these games.