




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

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

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.56 pm): The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games being awarded to Brisbane and South-East Queensland is a major achievement. It lifts Brisbane to another level on the world stage to rival the Olympic cities of Sydney and Melbourne. Hosting the Olympics in 2032 brings more than the well-deserved status to Brisbane and Queensland; it brings prosperity, opportunity, big-ticket infrastructure items and increased global connectivity for our people and businesses. It is a natural thing for the LNP opposition to support this bill as so many conservatives at all three levels of government have been highly involved from the beginning of the successful bid.

It is also important for me as a Redlands Coast member of parliament to support the Olympic and Paralympic legislation because Redlanders have a proud history in major sport; Redlanders want to participate in Olympic events locally and elsewhere; Redlanders will travel on public transport and roads and people will travel to and from the Redlands; and Redlands Coast small and family businesses and tourism operators will benefit from increased visitor numbers. Big ticket infrastructure items like the Eastern Busway, the Cleveland line duplication, state road duplications and other items that benefit the Redlands and that have been previously promised by successive state governments will need to be delivered and will be a lasting legacy of the Olympics for our region and our population of 150,000 for generations to come.

In terms of the primary objectives of the bill, I note that other speakers have covered in great detail the establishment of the board. I take a moment to congratulate Councillor Karen Williams, the mayor of Redland City, for her appointment as Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner's nomination. She is an experienced South-East Queensland mayor who has earned her place, being involved in the drive for the Brisbane Olympics from early on and by successfully arguing for sporting venues for council areas outside Brisbane City Council like the Redlands Coast. I have no doubt that her experience as the mayor of Redland City, a city of Greater Brisbane, will assist with the efficient running of the games and help to ensure that the benefits of the games are shared across many Queensland regions. I take a moment to invite the Labor members who have been quite political and critical about the mayor to get on board with the Olympics in a bipartisan way and support the mayor and myself as we work to ensure that the Redlands Coast gets the maximum possible benefit from the greater Brisbane Olympics.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympics story began in earnest in 2015 with Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and the Queensland Council of Mayors. The BCC unanimously resolved to investigate a regional Olympic and Paralympic Games with Brisbane at the centre of the bid. Former mayor of Brisbane Graham Quirk, the current mayor, Adrian Schrinner, and the Council of Mayors are to be congratulated for initiating and driving the Brisbane Olympic bid, for going beyond a dream and for actioning the vision to ultimately deliver a successful 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games bid.

I also congratulate the LNP federal government, led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, for their involvement and the substantial funding they are providing to the games big-ticket infrastructure among other items. It would be remiss of me not to also acknowledge the role of the state government and their involvement. They too have come to the party, even after the early reluctance of people such as

former deputy premier Jackie Trad. It is good to see that the state government's early hesitancy has changed so that now all three levels of government are cooperating, which will be needed for a successful games.

I am concerned about the risk the current government poses to the delivery of big-ticket transport infrastructure on time and on budget, as has been pointed out by others, and to the smooth running of events. The Cross River Rail project has suffered from Labor's budget blowouts and time delays. Queenslanders were told that Cross River Rail would be operational by 2024; now it will be 2025. The government said it would cost \$5 billion plus; now it is \$7 billion and rising. Labor members of parliament made an election promise that by 2024 Cross River Rail would save 14 minutes on a journey from the Redlands to the city. I table a photograph of a trailer promising that from one of the Labor members.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting billboard advertising Cross River Rail [2062](#).

However, without the Cleveland line duplication that Labor originally promised to deliver by 2025-26, those time savings are not possible. When that dilemma is put to the government, we hear nothing but crickets. At the time that Labor promised the Cleveland line duplication some years ago, the estimated cost was in the order of \$170 million; now it will probably cost upwards of \$300 million, but still there is no plan. The government needs to confirm if it will honour its promise on the duplication of the Cleveland line.

I have raised the issue of the Eastern Busway many times in the House, but the government refuses to give us a clear answer on costs and time lines. In the past I have said much more on that, but I will not reiterate it today because of time constraints. Sadly, in terms of the Eastern Busway or transitway, the government's record is quite poor. In the last three-year term it promised five intersection upgrades along the transitway but actually delivered none. It started with one. That record causes some concern.

There are many other comments that I could make today but there are time constraints. It is important that the big-ticket transport items are clearly planned and delivered. Venues in the Redlands coast area include the whitewater centre to be built for canoe and slalom events. The already-existing Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler has venues that are to be used. All of that means that the transport infrastructure is absolutely critical.

In closing I make the point that it is important that work is fast tracked on the hospital because more people will be visiting the Redlands. We will need both emergency services and the hospital upgraded. We need an ICU as soon as possible. We do not have a single ICU bed in the Redlands, which has a population of 150,000. They have had seven years to do it. We need faster progress on that. The car park is just starting to be built. I join Henry Pike and the 1,000 people who have already signed a petition calling on the government to make that car park free and not to cut the current free park.

I support the bill. I look forward to hearing more about the plans and how the government will help deliver on those big-ticket infrastructure items.