




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As part of the Economics and Governance Committee that considered this bill, I acknowledge that it was declared an urgent bill due to the requirement to have the legislative framework in place within five months of the signing of the Olympic host contract, which occurred on 21 July 2021.

I say at the outset that I am a big supporter of the Brisbane 2032 bid, having backed it from the bid stage, because I can see the amazing benefits on offer when hosting the world's largest sporting event. I say this as an elected representative here in Queensland and acknowledge the benefit that Brisbane 2032 will have for regional Queensland as well. I also stand here as a passionate advocate for my city of Logan and can see the transformative potential of having Olympic infrastructure and events in my city. World-class facilities and athletes in our backyard is transformative in terms of not only infrastructure and the jobs that come with building and maintaining such facilities but also the commercial flow-on benefits from becoming a destination—not just for a 16-day period in 2032 but also for the years leading up to and after the games.

Logan City Council was involved in the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, CoMSEQ, that first put forward the idea for the games bid. I know that Logan is not currently on the Australian Olympic Committee map as a site for a sport, but I can assure the people of Logan that I will be advocating tirelessly until Logan is on the Olympic map.

I note with interest submissions from the Gold Coast City council and those put forward by the member for Mermaid Beach that advocated that the Gold Coast should be represented in positions allocated to local government mayors. I found this interesting since the Gold Coast was not involved in the initial CoMSEQ proposal and lobbying. During the committee inquiry, when I asked the question of the task force, I was advised that the Gold Coast City council only came on board with the bid in 2020—five years into the bid process. I understand that the Gold Coast has many world-class sporting venues, courtesy of the considerable investment by all levels of government for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and therefore has initially been allocated a number of potential Olympic venues for 2032. Good on them! However, to turn around and demand a spot on the organising committee is a bit rich, particularly now that the games have been awarded and they are once again no longer part of the council of mayors.

I think we have all been at university and had the experience where a student in the group project is missing in action for most of the work, turns up right before it is due, throws in a few contributions here and there, disappears and fades when it is handed in and then demands to be the student that collects the prize at the end. I can say categorically that Logan says no, because if you cannot pay your fees or dues then you should not be reaping the rewards.

This bill, in essence, sets out the legislative framework for the body that is colloquially known as the organising committee, referred to in the bill as 'the corporation', and sets out the composition of the committee, referred to throughout the bill as 'the board'. The composition of the board is currently set

at 20, although the bill does not place a cap on membership so it may grow as required by the challenges of the day. The board is made up of six different components: five members from the international and Australian sporting committees, two athlete representatives, five independent directors, two local government representatives, four state government nominees, and four federal government nominees. Clauses 17 to 20 outline the eligibility for each of these components, with clause 17 providing gender diversity requirements for a number of the board positions and clause 18 providing a requirement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation among the independent nominees.

In examining the bill, the committee made seven recommendations in total, including that the bill be passed. I thank the Premier for responding to those recommendations in her speech this morning. I would like to expand on why the committee came to some of these additional recommendations.

First I would like to examine recommendation 3, which refers specifically to the impacts of games infrastructure planning and construction on local communities. During the inquiry process the committee received a significant number of submissions from community members and community groups predominantly in and around the Woolloongabba area where, I understand, there will be significant impact from the Gabba redevelopment on those local communities, and I note the submission and representation from the local school co-located next to the Gabba.

I asked a number of these representatives who attended the public hearing some questions. I think what they really wanted to see was recognition within the Olympic framework that the board had to take into consideration the impact of the development during construction of the facilities and during the conduct of the games. As long as there is a mechanism such as the establishment of a commission specifically to look at the impact on local communities, that will suffice. Unfortunately, there will be a significant number of communities that will be impacted, particularly during construction. It is somewhat untenable for every single one of those communities to have a position on the organising committee. The Premier responded this morning and identified that correspondence will be sent to the organising committee, once it is established, to encourage the creation of a framework in which those local communities will be consulted and have a voice on how those facilities and events will impact them.

The other recommendation I would specifically like to address is recommendation 6. Clause 8 of the bill indicates that the organising committee will be subject to the Crime and Corruption Act except for any federal members of parliament who may be appointed to the board. I thought that was really quite interesting. When I read the opposition's statement of reservation they were really big on accountability and transparency for this Olympic Games. They mentioned a more structured conflict-of-interest framework. They mentioned tightening up the right to information framework, but do honourable members know what they did not mention? They did not mention the fact that the federal government stipulated that any federal member of parliament who might be on the committee would be exempt from the Crime and Corruption Act. This seemed kind of strange considering there is no federal equivalent such as an ICAC that could hold them accountable. I asked the task force why on earth this clause was inserted into this bill. Apparently it was a specific stipulation of the federal government that, should any of their nominees who happen to be a member of the federal parliament be appointed to the board, they would not be subject to the Crime and Corruption Act. Imagine that. Imagine my surprise that that was not included in the opposition's statement of reservation.

I acknowledge the Premier addressed the House this morning and said that an amendment will be moved which specifically outlines the remit of a crime and corruption committee with respect to federal members. I note also that the minister has written to the federal government to please explain why they have stipulated that, because the task force was not given any particular reason why that clause must be inserted. I look forward to hearing about the correspondence from the federal government as to why their members—everyone else on the organising committee will be subject to the provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act—are not. I really look forward to hearing that response because, as we know, the opposition is all about transparency and accountability. I look forward to the Premier responding to the House on that particular issue.

All those questions notwithstanding, this bill is the first bill that this House considers in the establishment of the Olympic Brisbane 2032. This is the first step in many that this House will take. I look forward to seeing who some of these nominees will be and whether the Gold Coast gets a guernsey. I do note that some of the athlete representatives have already been nominated. I am looking forward to not only seeing the composition of this board but in great depth seeing Logan being included. I commend the bill to the House.