




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.37 pm): I also rise to talk on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. I was not intending on speaking to this bill, but I have been inspired by some of the speeches of members opposite. I thank the member for Mackay for that thrilling speech just then! There are a couple of issues about this bill that I would like to talk about. One issue that the member for Mermaid Beach raised the other day concerned the lack of appointment to the board of the mayor from the Gold Coast. We just had the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in the past couple of years. There are some things—

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr HART: I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. There are a few things we need to learn from the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. They were very successful sporting games but, as far as being a successful games for the people of the Gold Coast, they were a little bit off. A lot of people were scared away from coming to the Gold Coast while the Commonwealth Games were on. We saw a dearth of people at our restaurants and our hotels, because the government said that this would be a very busy time on the Gold Coast and that people should avoid visiting. They told us the roads would be chock-a-block and that there would be no opportunity to get anywhere on the freeways, but I did not have any trouble at all getting around the Gold Coast during that time. There was just no-one there. Between now and 2032 when the Brisbane games are on, it is very important that we learn from our previous mistakes.

Unfortunately, at the moment we have a Labor government and they never learn from any mistakes they make. Hopefully, future governments will learn from that. I would encourage those who are deciding on who should be on the board of the Olympic Games to look at adding to the board the position of mayor of the Gold Coast council, whoever that might be in 2032. Do we have any volunteers for mayor of the Gold Coast in 2032? We would like to see someone from the Gold Coast appointed to that board. I will table an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that talks about traffic issues and other issues around the Commonwealth Games so that someone can perhaps learn from that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 9 April 2018, titled 'Gold Coast business owner livid at Commonwealth Games traffic warnings' [2058](#).

The issue I want to talk about today was touched on briefly by a few ministers and a few members on the other side, but they skimmed over the particular point. I note that when the Minister for Sport was talking about this he mentioned clause 10 of the bill. I want to concentrate on this issue because other members have covered off on every other issue around the Olympic Games.

Clause 10, which is headed 'Requirements for performance of functions', is important. Clause 10 states that 'In performing its functions the corporation must' and then there are a whole lot of things it must do. At (d) it states—

ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland Government's policy about procurement, including procurement from Indigenous businesses.

At face value that seems great. It sounds like we are going to purchase things in Queensland and that that will benefit the people of Queensland when we get to the Olympic Games in 2032. Subclause (2) states—

For subsection (1)(d)—

and that is the one I just read out—

the Queensland Government's policy about procurement does not apply to the extent it is inconsistent with the host contract.

Do we all have that now? We have a procurement policy that applies to the Olympics which says we will buy things in Queensland but it does not apply to the extent it is inconsistent with the host contract. Let us have a look at the host contract? That is not available to us. We cannot have a look at that because that will no doubt be commercial-in-confidence. This bill does not allow for any right to information applications to be made to obtain that document.

The government has a perfect excuse to blame the host contract for the fact that they will not end up spending any money in Queensland or the fact that most of the major contracts go to businesses that are in places other than in Queensland. The government has a history of this when we look at some of the infrastructure projects going on around the state at moment. For instance, the Cairns Convention Centre is supposed to be using local contractors, but there are contractors from Sydney and Melbourne doing some of the work up there. This government does not have a good record in that regard. They need to get their ducks in a row as far as procurement goes.

A couple of members mentioned that some of the infrastructure will be covered by best practice industrial conditions.

Mr McDonald: Busted.

Mr HART: I will take that interjection from the member of Lockyer. We have seen with a number of infrastructure projects happening throughout the state at the moment that this has caused a cost blowout. Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3 has blown out by 50 per cent because of best practice industrial conditions. The government crows quite a lot about how Cross River Rail will fit into the Olympics in 2032. Again, we have seen massive cost blowouts. We have not seen the end of that. It will be ginormous—if there is such a word—when we see the final cost of Cross River Rail.

I wanted to question the Premier about clause 10 of this bill during consideration in detail. I was hoping the Premier would be able to give me a guarantee that the majority of goods and services would be sourced from Queensland companies for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Given that we have had an extra seven enthusiastic members of the Labor Party added to speaking list overnight, it looks to me like this bill, like a lot of other bills in the Queensland parliament, will be guillotined all of a sudden and we will not get to have consideration in detail. Never mind; I will be hanging around to see whether the Premier comes in to consider the amendments that the member for South Brisbane has proposed, for instance, and whether she answers my question about clause 10 of this bill.

That is going to happen at 5.15 this afternoon. By my count, with 10 minutes allowed for every enthusiastic member of the Labor Party who has decided to add themselves to the speaking list on this bill, we will run out of time and the Premier—

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: Members, I have a lot of notes to speak to so you will excuse me. I would like to hear an answer around procurement because this is a very important issue for the people of Queensland. They want to see food purchased from Queensland. They want to see the infrastructure built by builders from Queensland. They want electricians in Queensland hooking up the wires. They want the roads to be built by Queensland contractors. They want to see this government do the right thing.

There are a couple of things that I would ask for. I would like to be given an answer on that. If the advisers in the corner could make a note of that for me I would appreciate it. I would like a guarantee that items will be purchased in Queensland and a guarantee that the government will not use as an excuse not to do that a contract that we cannot see, we cannot RTI and that is invisible to us because this government is not transparent and accountable.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, member for Burleigh, for that provocative speech.