




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2021

**BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.16 pm): As the member for Mermaid Beach and a member of the opposition, I support the first piece of legislation that has come in as a result of Brisbane winning the 2032 Olympic Games bid. Why wouldn't we? It is Roman politics 101—we put on a big spectacular event for the constituency and everything will be directed towards that fabulous event over the next 11 years through the media and politicians. We even have the Cross River Rail being attributed to the Olympic Games, even before Brisbane was declared as the Olympic Games venue.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Members, this has been a fairly wideranging debate and I am going to allow quite a bit of latitude. The member will be heard in silence.

**Mr STEVENS:** We support this first step in relation to setting up the board for the 2032 Olympic Games. We thank the former lord mayor, Graham Quirk, for giving us the opportunity to have this legislation in this House because of his lobbying in the first instance of the federal government. When the state government realised that the federal government would fund it fifty-fifty, they jumped on board as well. We then had the successful bid in Tokyo, and we are going forward with this legislation for the new board.

This legislation in some ways disappoints me. We understand that this is the Brisbane Olympic Games, just like LA and Sydney. We noticed in the draft legislation that in relation to the local government make-up of the board we had the lord mayor, which is only appropriate, and a person of opposite gender to the lord mayor. However, it basically now comes down to the lord mayor's pick. I found it very disappointing to see in the media that the lord mayor has made his pick before the legislation has passed. I believe his pick is going to be the mayor of Redlands, as per the media statement. I find that hard to understand, because the Gold Coast conducted a very successful Commonwealth Games—and the members over there would agree with that—but the experience gained from that Commonwealth Games is not being utilised at this stage by including the representative of the City of Gold Coast, which happens to be the mayor. I note there is an opportunity for the mayor to be included as part of the other 20 members other than the local government members.

I hark back to an era when the Indy was flagging. Then sports minister Bob Gibbs moved it to Tom Burns, a great Labor politician—they could do with his talent here today, I can assure you. Tom Burns called the then mayor of the Gold Coast directly—that would be me—and said basically, 'You have to get onto this Indy committee to take the Indy event out to the community. It will not work unless we have the local government support for the event.' We did and it went on to be a very successful event. This particular board needs to include the major representative—I am not talking about the mayor here today; it could be the lady mayor next time through or whatever—but it should be the mayor of the Gold Coast, with nine of the events being on the Gold Coast. There is no representation obviously because of a bit of a spat over the CoMSEQ involvement of Gold Coast in the original lobbying for the event.

I cannot understand why it has moved in this direction. I hope, in the interests of a smooth operation of the Olympic Games board deliberations, that Queensland's second largest city of 600,000 people, right next to the Brisbane venue, if you like, for the Olympic Games, will have inclusion. Every man and his dog is barking that Kate Jones will be one of the board members. She is not a Gold Coaster, even though some people have tried to pursue that line of thinking. We need a Gold Coast representative who can assist with furthering the success of the 2032 Olympic Games preparedness and actually deliver on matters in the Gold Coast area.

One of the other things the committee discussed was in relation to the transparency and accountability of this particular bill and of board activities. One of the matters of concern the Right to Information Commissioner spoke about in her presentation to the committee was the fact that there were exclusions for certain members of the committee and certain issues of the committee. Her advice was that those necessary would be protected by the current right to information legislation here in Queensland and was not necessary to be in this bill.

I table this little document from the weekend's newspaper in relation to the Rio Olympics—not long ago, 2016—where the court has sentenced the former president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee to 30 years in prison for bribery.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, undated, titled 'Rio Olympics Chief Cops Bribery Rap' [2016](#).

It was not that long ago. In fact, the reason given to the committee for those exclusions was that the 2000 Sydney Olympics legislation contained protections for people. Obviously the fellows who organised the Rio Olympics were not aware of the protection that would be put in place for them.

It is unclear why privacy matters have been raised when the protection is there now, as advised by the Right to Information Commissioner herself, to protect the integrity and accountability of the members of that board. In terms of the federal members, as was alluded to by the Premier in her speech, it is questionable why those members were exempted from the CCC legislation. We want this Olympic Games to be a true, accurate, transparent and accountable games on all sectors so that whoever is getting paid by the taxpayers of Queensland and the federal government is honest, open and accountable. I would hate to see anyone jailed, as in Rio, after the 2032 Olympic Games has been completed.

We all look forward to the Olympic Games being a great success, and today is the first step in enacting legislation for the board to commence. It is an urgent bill, we understand. As a committee we put together matters reasonably quickly to accommodate the urgent setting up of the board, even though the games are 11 years away. I look forward to the board members, when they are announced—with Commonwealth agreement, as I understand, in the selection process—being a true reflection of communities that will have great input into the success of a very important event in 2032.

We are not having Christians versus lions in the Colosseum on Saturday night. This is a very important event for Queensland, the success of which we will all hang our hats on. The board members, when they are finally announced, will be of great interest. I hope it is fair and equitable and particularly that the Gold Coast as a community has an important role to play.