




Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.39 pm): I, too, rise to address the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill 2022. I do so, as just about every member in this chamber would well know, as an avid sports nut. I know that even the Minister for Sport himself knows how passionate I am about not only all sports that are played and represented in my electorate but every sport in general. I could happily sit and watch two cockroaches chase each other up the wall and probably enjoy that as much as many other activities. I am also very much a regular at a lot of Stadiums Queensland facilities and have even had the privilege of playing on the hallowed turf that is Lang Park. A number of us have had that opportunity as part of our touch football charity game.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** No, the member for Lytton did not have a head clash with me at that field; I think it was at Souths that we had that head knock. I still have the photo to prove it. I am not sure which of us came off worse. All I do know is that Country continue to flog City when it comes to touch footy! I also had an opportunity to play a fundraising football game—the real game of football, soccer—on the field there with a number of CEOs, raising money for an Indigenous organisation. It will long live in my memory due to a knee injury. I was playing goalkeeper and Craig Moore came on in the second half. We were actually holding our own, if I recall correctly. I will never forget the look on his face as I came out a bit to meet him. He just sort of smiled at me and then proceeded to lob and put a goal in behind me. You have to admit: getting scored on by Craig Moore is—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** Embarrassing? No, no, no. I will take it; it is quite an honour.

There are a number of aspects of this bill that I want to speak on. One is around the commercial outcomes for major sports facilities. The interim report of the task force mentioned an opportunity that Metricon Stadium, in their land parcel, had tried to pursue around an early learning centre. The task force subsequently found that there may be development opportunities at Stadiums Queensland venues that could potentially be utilised to generate additional sources of revenue from operations that are compatible with SQ business. I want to relate an example of where I have seen this in practice outside of SQ facilities, because I think it will benefit our Stadiums Queensland stadiums, parks and facilities. It is at what used to be called Dolphin Stadium—I believe it is now Moreton Daily Stadium—at Redcliffe. Yes, they have a leagues club and, yes, they have the various things that go with that, including poker machines, but they also have a shopping centre with a major brand as the major tenant. That generates ongoing revenue for the Dolphins leagues club. That has allowed them to make a very successful pitch for an NRL team. My biggest disappointment is that I was looking forward to becoming a Moreton Bay Dolphins fan. Hopefully the NRL will yet see wisdom in giving the team a locational name rather than just 'the Dolphins'. I was even offering, as I understand the mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council was offering, to give up my Parramatta Eels membership and truly sign on as a Moreton Bay Dolphins fan if that was the case. Sadly, it has not been, so I may have to continue to have split allegiances.

Coming back to the stadium, extra revenue is brought in from those commercial operations. It also means that community sporting groups in my location can access that huge stadium and the ancillary fields at a reasonable cost. A number of my sporting teams have been down there and participated at activities at that centre, as have my own kids. The state titles and national titles for the Churches Soccer Association have been held at those facilities. I know that we have been able to get them at a reasonable rate because the cost has been offset by the revenue that the commercial operations have generated. Potentially, some of our major sporting teams that struggle to fill the entirety of SQ facilities, particularly Lang Park, may be able to continue to play at places like Lang Park at a reduced rate. That may mean they will be able to offer cheaper tickets. That will mean that more fans and kids will be able to attend and more kids will be able to see their heroes and get enthusiastic about sport. What better time than now, in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics here in South-East Queensland?

That is the other aspect of the bill that I want to note. This is making SQ become Olympics and Paralympics ready. I think that is very important. In fact, I think the whole state needs to get Olympics and Paralympics ready. I heard my colleague the member for Buderim talking about some of the infrastructure needs we have on the Sunshine Coast and in the Moreton Bay area as part of the Olympics preparation. We need a stadium. We need upgrades to some of the secondary level hockey, soccer, cricket, AFL, netball and basketball facilities. What we particularly need to see is lighting and female-friendly change rooms at a lot of those facilities. In the same way that SQ is getting Olympics and Paralympics ready, we need to be getting our community sporting groups ready.

I acknowledge that the minister has met with one of my groups. We have an unusual situation whereby it is not a council run operation—it is not even on a council piece of land; it is a state government piece of land. It is a community run trust that hosts one of our best round-ball football teams, desperately in need of lights. I acknowledge that the minister has met with them and is looking at that. We need to see that not only at the Beerwah Glasshouse United Football Club but also at the Maleny Rangers, at the Palmwoods Warriors and at Wamuran and Woodford with netball clubs like the Woodford Warriors Netball Club. That needs to be occurring right across the region as we get ready for the Olympics.

We also need to make sure we have the infrastructure we need to move people around as they come to the Olympics in 2032. I echo some of the concerns raised by my colleagues during question time that in the last federal budget we have not seen allocations of funding, in the short term at least, for the heavy rail into Maroochydore. It is desperately needed. We also need to see a commitment that the Albanese federal government will sign up to what the Morrison federal government did in terms of their contributions to the costs required to host the Olympic Games. All of that is vital if we are to host what I have no doubt will be the best Olympic Games to date. Preparing SQ for the Olympics is one thing; preparing the state and making sure we have the facilities to not only wow the athletes who come from around the world but also leave a legacy that our community sporting groups and our top-tier teams from across the sporting spectrum can participate in is another.

With those few words, I acknowledge that the LNP will be supporting this bill. As I said, there are a number of sensible opportunities and amendments in here. I do hope that we will see more sports facilities with better access for our local kids and that our major sports facilities operated by Stadiums Queensland will continue to be open and available to as many people as possible and, as I said, with the commercial outcomes that this bill might present, maybe at a cheaper rate for all involved.