




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise to address the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill. I note at the outset the LNP will not be opposing this bill, which is largely administrative in nature. However, I would like to make a couple of points with respect to Olympic infrastructure and the priorities of this government.

What we have seen since the Olympics were announced with much fanfare is complete inaction on any Olympic infrastructure and any of the supporting transport infrastructure with the exception of Cross River Rail. I will give the government that. They are building that Cross River Rail at massive cost—\$9 billion we have just heard. However, on infrastructure like rail to the Sunshine Coast there has been zero from this government and we saw \$1.6 billion cut by the federal government last night. That is the kind of transport infrastructure which will be critical to delivering the Olympic Games in a successful and seamless manner.

There is no plan for a convention or an exhibition centre on the Sunshine Coast, the kind of facility which the Sunshine Coast deserves and for which it has been calling out for years. It is the kind of facility that major centres right across Queensland already have. There is the Cairns Convention Centre. Townsville just got a brand new stadium. The Sunshine Coast, a community of a far larger population, does not have a convention centre. This government should be giving serious consideration to committing funding to get work started so it can be utilised for initiatives like the Olympic Games in 2032.

We have seen the glacial pace at which this government has done everything relating to the Olympics and with respect to major sporting infrastructure across the state. We have seen cost blowouts on the Gabba, and a lack of clarity around what it is going to cost. We have heard from the member for South Brisbane about the impact on her constituents. My question is: what will the impact be of the expenditure on the Gabba for the rest of Queensland? What will constituents in my electorate on the Sunshine Coast do without because of money spent on the Gabba? Local projects on the Sunshine Coast like the Maroochydore Cricket Club's lighting proposal, which has been assessed by Queensland Cricket to be the third highest priority in the state, go unfunded. They go unfunded because there is no funding for local sporting clubs that do support significant sporting events. The Big Bash plays at the same field that the Maroochydore Cricket Club want \$600,000 to provide lighting for and yet there is no single funding line from this government to fund that infrastructure.

Mr Boothman: It is a breeding ground for the next generation.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Theodore. It is a breeding ground for the very generation that will be competing in 2032. I use the example of the Sunshine Coast Wanderers Football Club in Buderim. I have recently written to the minister about this—I will cut him some slack because I only wrote recently; he has not had a chance to respond yet. That soccer club has approached me because they simply do not have the funds to be able to maintain their fields which

have been considerably impacted as a consequence of the wet weather. There is no funding. Queensland Sport and Recreation tell me there is no funding line to support clubs like the Buderim Wanderers Football Club, and that is simply not good enough.

We are talking about \$60,000 odd for a sporting club that supports 1,200 people across the Sunshine Coast. It is in the National Soccer League and is a pathway to elite sport from under 6s right through. For the government not to have any funding line to support the maintenance of those sorts of facilities—

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I hear the interjections from those opposite who say it is a council responsibility, but that is simply another example of trying to blame others, of shifting responsibility to other levels of government. We have seen the federal government cut, cut, cut in last night's budget, but it does not stop those opposite claiming credit when they want to announce a project.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. We saw plenty of sporting projects funded in the member for Springwood's electorate when he was the minister for sport. Plenty of projects were pork-barrelled in the member for Springwood's electorate when he was the minister. This was at the expense of every other electorate in the state. It talks to a failure to prioritise the interests of all Queenslanders by this state government. I will give credit where it is due. The government did fund the expansion of the Sunshine Coast Stadium in my electorate in the last term. I do not know if it was because the then treasurer and deputy premier was the patron of the club—there was much fanfare when she opened it. Nonetheless, that is the one piece of sporting infrastructure that this government has funded and delivered in my electorate. Queenslanders deserve better, to be frank.

If I look at the Sunshine Coast Hockey Association, it was the former LNP federal government that bailed them out so that they could put in a new synthetic pitch, which is used by the Hockeyroos. The pitch is used by sporting teams who come to the Sunshine Coast and who will use those sorts of facilities in advance of the Olympics in 2032, but this state government ignore them. This state government ignore those community sporting clubs, which are the pathways for our elite sportsmen. They ignore them because they like the glitz and glamour of the red carpet—the big events—and it is Queenslanders who lose out.

I implore those opposite to think about local communities. There is more to Queensland than big events, red carpets and glitz and glamour. Queenslanders deserve sporting pathways and facilities in our local communities, and the Sunshine Coast quite simply is not getting its fair share right now.