




Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

### **MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.54 pm): I am pleased to speak on the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill. In particular, I would like to speak briefly on the provisions that will assist stadiums to provide assistance during times of natural disasters. Under the bill, an administrative arrangement will be in place allowing the minister to exchange letters with the Stadiums Queensland board outlining the government's policies or priorities as well as the government's strategic intent for Stadiums Queensland facilities. This bill provides the minister with the power to direct Stadiums Queensland on strategic matters and matters of public interest; for example, to support emergency responses such as those for natural disasters following consultation with the Stadiums Queensland board.

I am sure this part of the bill is really important to many communities across Queensland—certainly to my community of Mount Ommaney—because during the February floods we all know that evacuation centres had to be stood up at short notice to service residents in my community, particularly in the suburbs of Oxley and Corinda, because their homes are inundated quite quickly and impacted by flooding. In addition to people whose homes were inundated, other homes were also isolated which meant that, especially for elderly residents, it was not safe for them to live in their home. Even though the home itself was in no danger of flooding, they did not have power or they could not traverse the suburb by road because their house was actually islanded and it was not safe for them to stay there in some cases. About 400 homes in my electorate alone were impacted, so you can only imagine the effect Brisbane-wide.

We know that for those communities impacted during the February floods statewide evacuation centres were vital. Brisbane only had two evacuation centres, and one of those was the Sleeman Sports Complex at Chandler, which is one of the facilities covered under this legislation. The Brisbane City Council commissioned a flood review conducted by Paul de Jersey. The report contained the recommendation that council should assess the adequacy of only having two major evacuation centres for a city the size of Brisbane. My community has certainly welcomed the view that more evacuation centres would be important and should be considered. We know from this bill that stadiums could have an important role to play as evacuation centres in strategic locations around our city. If you think for a moment about Suncorp and the flood impacted communities around the Suncorp Stadium, they could actually be a really great location.

A number of venues around Brisbane could provide several options for evacuation centres or other kinds of assistance locations. It does not just have to be evacuation: there may be other needs that could be met by these stadium locations. I think that all members of my community, and I suspect right across Queensland and the House of Representatives here, would all agree that more than two venues would be welcomed in the Brisbane city district next time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riverlife Baptist Church in my community, which did operate as an evacuation centre for locals in my community who were flooded and unable to reach formal council locations. In addition to Riverlife, we also heard stories about hundreds of locals who

opened their hearts and homes to people displaced by the floods. Those people were looked after by their neighbours, and that happened literally with hundreds of local people in my community. This may not be an option for everybody, so for the members of the community who have nowhere else to go this is vitally important. This legislation will provide a clear methodology for enabling more evacuation centres to be stood up in times of natural disasters. That is a really important provision for my community. I know that we have lots of people who are really keen to make a contribution on the bill, so I will leave my comments there and commend the bill to the House.