




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.34 pm): I am fortunate in my electorate that this Queensland government supports all sports, as it supports all sports across the state. Whether it be Townsville where they have done a huge amount of work on the hockey fields, the Sunshine Coast where they have done work on the hockey fields, at Kedron where they have done work on the hockey fields—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PEASE: Absolutely they have. At Southport on the Gold Coast they have done a lot of work on the hockey fields. Our government has supported all sports—hockey being one of them—and continues to do so.

How delightful it is that in my area my Aussie Rules club has received a significant amount of money. Our local football club, Wynnum Wolves, has received significant funding. Wynnum Manly cricket has just received some funding. It is terribly embarrassing to sit here day in, day out listening to the naysayers on that side of the chamber. All they do is criticise, criticise, criticise. I do not know why they live in Queensland because the way they go on you would think that it is a terrible place to live in—there is nothing good about it, there is nothing nice about it; they just bring it down every step of the way.

I am proud to be a member of this government which has done so much in this state. Sport is only one of the areas, and that is what we happen to be talking about today. We are talking about the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill 2022. If those opposite want me to talk about all of the great things we have done in Queensland since we have been in government, I am happy to go on, but I want to talk about sports facilities. We are here to pass the sports facilities bill. It is a priority to get this bill passed so we can move on with the work that we are doing in the Olympic Games space.

The Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill was introduced in 2022 and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. This bill is the result of the report of a task force that was developed in 2018 to examine the operating and pricing models for major sports events for each of the venues within Stadiums Queensland. The bill is in response to the task force report and seeks to amend the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to enable Stadiums Queensland to diversify the use of the land at venues to provide both commercial and community benefit. The Greens have asked for social benefits, and that is what this bill will achieve.

We have heard from members here today about the wonderful, lovely experiences that they have had at stadiums. They are part of the fabric of our society; they are important to all of us. We have all been to stadiums, we have done different things at them and we have different memories of them. The member for Everton was talking about his experiences at Lang Park, sitting at the outer. I had similar experiences—they were great times with my mum and dad. My dad particularly loved the footy. He was a great Rugby League player himself and we spent a lot of time there. I have the fondest memories of Lang Park. I was fortunate to be at the first State of Origin match and I also happened to be at the last match between Queensland and New South Wales before we started State of Origin. I have tremendous memories.

I have great memories of Boondall. For my sins, I admit publicly—do not hold it against me—that I saw *Starlight Express*, the one on rollerskates. Do not judge me: my husband bought me tickets and thought it was a great thing. I also saw *Riverdance* there. I saw the magnificent Hugh Jackman in *Boy from Oz*. I have also enjoyed many games of cricket at the Gabba. I saw Tina Turner at the Sleeman Sports Complex. Was it *Simply the Best* or *Return to Thunderdome*? I am not sure which one it was, but I have some tremendous memories of that. I have lovely memories of the social capital benefits of Chandler. I spent many hours in the lovely parks around Chandler with my girlfriend, who has sadly passed away. The fondest memories I have are of Beth and I with our kids enjoying the duck ponds and the nature walks around Chandler. I enjoyed the Commonwealth Games there. This is a great opportunity for us to expand on that.

My kids learnt to swim with Aquatic Achievers, which is located at the Chandler sporting complex. Expanding on that opportunity is great. My daughter, who was an elite hockey player, used to go to a physio and a podiatrist that operated out of the Sleeman Sports Centre. So I have seen the benefits of having combined uses of the facilities and commercialising those facilities. That is why it is important that we create the opportunity for Stadiums Queensland to have agility, to be progressive and to look at alternative ways to make use of those facilities. It is important that this bill is passed today. I am delighted to hear that, for a change, the LNP have decided to support this bill. I commend the bill to the House.