



Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill. In 2018 we established a stadium task force which examined the operating models for major sporting events for each of the venues within the Stadiums Queensland portfolio. This bill responds to the task force reports and recommendations and seeks to amend the Major Sports Facility Act to support the venues providing both commercial and community benefits into the future and ensuring that our facilities and the land that is associated with these facilities is used for sport, recreation, entertainment events and special events across Queensland and that they remain contemporary and are positioned for the future to attract new and additional events that stimulate our economy, provide tourism opportunities and will help drive more economic prosperity, particularly in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics.

Our major sports facilities supported several Australian sporting competitions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic including the 2020 AFL premiership season, which alone contributed more than \$136 million to our state's economy. Metricon Stadium facilitated the training and playing needs of 12 AFL teams throughout the 2020 season. That season the Gabba hosted almost 30,000 people at Queensland's first ever AFL Grand Final, which is truly exceptional. Lang Park hosted the largest crowd for a sporting event anywhere in the world since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, with more than 49,000 fans at the NRL State of Origin. The reforms in this bill will help ensure that Queensland is best positioned to realise the \$8.1 billion in infrastructure, economic and social benefits that are associated with the 2032 Olympics. We expect a \$4.6 billion uplift in tourism and trade and, most importantly, employment opportunities in excess of 100,000 jobs.

In preparation for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, our eight Queensland government owned venues will receive major upgrades to support future sport development and community use. The facility upgrades include a significant redevelopment of the Gabba. It is going to be absolutely brilliant, because as we know the Gabba is home to our mighty Brisbane Lions and our Queensland cricket teams, including the Brisbane Heat side that is also taking games to the Gold Coast and Cairns for the upcoming BBL season.

I would also like to note that the Gabba has hosted concerts by Taylor Swift and Adele, who set a new attendance record for concerts at the ground by drawing 65,000 people on consecutive nights. This is a huge, huge benefit in terms of an economic boost to our state. Indeed, Lang Park has hosted the likes of U2, Phil Collins, Bon Jovi and the Foo Fighters right through to Paul McCartney. Next month Suncorp Stadium will host Guns N' Roses. I do not know if anybody in the House has tickets, but they might be standing in the November rain.

In just a few days single-game tickets to the FIFA Women's World Cup will go on sale to the general public, with eight games scheduled for Suncorp Stadium during late July and early August. I am sure that all members in this place are looking forward to supporting us hosting the Women's World Cup.

I will conclude my contribution by also pointing out that the Queensland Tennis Centre comes under the portfolio of Stadiums Queensland. As one of the co-chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis, I would invite all members here tonight not only to support the great game of tennis but also to attend this evening's Queensland Tennis Awards which are being held here at parliament.

This is a great bill. It has wonderful reforms that will ensure sport continues to be a key driver in our economic and jobs future and protects the great lifestyle we have here in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.