




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.50 pm): I was intending to start by reminiscing about my football career for the under-6s at Clairvaux, but, for the most part, I will be more agile than that and stick to the bill. I took a survey of some members to ask about the key moments for Queenslanders when it comes to sport. Obviously my under-6s career was not well known, so I did not bring that up.

People brought up events like the first State of Origin game in 1980 where Arthur Beetson led the troops and won the game in a comeback. I did not speak to those on the other side of the House, but they seem to share similar memories. Of course, there was the 1960 tied test at the Gabba against the West Indies—a truly historic cricket event. Following that, there was 1995 Sheffield Shield victory—one of the greatest droughts in our sporting history. In 2017, we had the extraordinary Jeff Horn and Manny Pacquiao event.

When it comes to AFL, the three years of the three-peat Lions victory was truly extraordinary, where the Gabba became the ‘Gabbatoir’ and a truly feared ground. I do not think we were taken seriously in terms of the AFL until that. Reflecting on the bill concerning COVID safety, Stadiums Queensland kept those at our stadiums safe through COVID and we had the AFL finals in Queensland—another historic event.

The thing we forget is that in our lifetime there will be an event that will top all of these. The Olympics will be historic and extraordinary for our state. They will be on this hallowed ground where we have already shared so many memories. All of our venues will be used. These are special venues for Queenslanders. They hold special memories for Queenslanders. It is fitting that the most extraordinary event of our lifetime will be held at the places that we find so special.

As the chair of the committee, I was pleased the committee was given this bill to consider which contains the gradual and sensible changes that were put in place by the minister in response to the Stadiums Taskforce. The committee asked about the non-legislated changes that have already been put in place. Some of the provisions are formalising measures that are already being used but require a strict and clear legislative backing. It is important that Stadiums Queensland becomes the agency that can deliver the memories of the future at these extraordinary venues. We have these huge venues that are monoliths that have been used for important events, but there are other opportunities.

I know that the minister is a great fan of a particular Boston team. I do not know whether he is a fan of the Red Sox, but the area around their ground is extraordinary in terms of its vibrancy, its commerciality and its continued connection to Boston residents. That is something that I think we could learn from—that is, having that atmosphere seven days a week rather than just one. It would be quite exciting to do that.

The committee noted that there is a proposal to have an early learning centre and childcare training college within Metricon. Those are the types of initiatives we want to see. If there are sensible and complementary commercial activities that can take place, we want Stadiums Queensland to embrace those opportunities.

I note that there were a few points made about modernisation. The shadow minister had a conspiracy theory about the number of board meetings. We asked a question—and it is in our committee transcript—about most modern boards having 10 meetings a year as a standard. There is no need for any weird conspiracy because we had already asked that question. We know that the quality of meetings is in the preparation. There may be quite a lot of hard work being put into those meetings. We know that the LNP turn up a lot but that is not reflective of quality. Turning up to vital meetings will make for good outcomes.

There are other elements to modernising the board structure—eligibility, remuneration and ensuring the ability to deal with property is smoother and clearer. There is clarity around the minister's power to give a direction, how we would be informed of that and how we would transition through that. These are sensible, clear, well thought-out changes to ensure our peak sporting facilities—these fields of dreams and Queensland memories—are better administered. There was universal support for this from the committee. I thank the deputy chair and the other members for their participation. The process was conducted smoothly and in a good way.

I have spoken about Queensland's greatest team memories; I want to talk about one of Queensland's worst team memories. Remember that horrible referee who cheated the Queensland Cowboys at the sixth tackle? If I ran into that bloke again, 'boy oh boy'.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** That is it. I remind members and those listening that Stadiums Queensland has a great responsibility for our sporting legacy, for the memories and for such important moments in Queensland history that we value so much, but also for the memories that we are going to make in the future, including Olympic memories which will truly be extraordinary.