




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill 2022. The report was put together at quite a fast pace and I thank the secretariat for their work in that regard.

My sporting career started in primary school. It would not take me too long to fill in the story for members, but I am not going to bore them with that. Suffice to say that it has finished here at Parliament House with the sort-of annual touch footy game, where I was sent off to the country team. I will make the point that the country team has won most games over the years—six of the seven.

As members have heard, the LNP will not oppose the bill. The objectives of the bill are to implement recommendations from the Stadium Taskforce interim report and the Stadium Taskforce final report and modernise the legislation behind the statutory body Stadiums Queensland. The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 established Stadiums Queensland as the statutory body whose functions are to manage, operate, use, develop and promote major sports facilities in Queensland. Stadiums Queensland is governed by a board which is responsible for the overall corporate governance of the authority and which has portfolio responsibility for major sports facilities declared under the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014.

In 2018 a Stadium Taskforce was established to address concerns raised by some hirers of major sports facilities within the SQ portfolio including issues related to the operation of venues; costs related to venues, particularly those located beyond Brisbane; costs of government services; and venue infrastructure needs. Amendments of note include: reduce the statutory minimum number of board meetings for Stadiums Queensland from 12 times a year to nine times a year; amend the powers stipulated in the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to allow the responsible minister to deal with property in lieu of Governor in Council—this will allow the responsible minister, rather than Governor in Council, to approve acquisitions of sports, recreation, entertainment or event exhibition facilities; and provide that the minister may give Stadiums Queensland a written direction about the performance of its functions or exercise of power—for example, a direction to use major sports or events facilities to support major events such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which is of course very important here.

Submissions to the parliamentary committee inquiry on the legislation closed without a submission being lodged. As a result, no public hearings were undertaken. While the opposition will not oppose the bill, I will by way of example make comments regarding the glacial speed at which this government moves and how that could pose a threat to the 2032 Olympic Games. The state government established the Stadium Taskforce in April 2018 to review the pricing and practice of Stadiums Queensland. The final report was provided to the state government on 28 November 2018. It is one month short of four years since the government received the report, yet it is only now that the government has chosen to act.

Coincidentally, the business case for exit 38 in my electorate was also provided to the state government through the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in November 2018 and, of course, construction on exit 49 has only just started, despite funding being available since mid-2019. That is the sort of example that demonstrates that it takes this government forever to actually deliver projects. Exit 38—this very important exit upgrade that will be crucial for the 2032 Olympic Games—still has no funding in the current budget nor the forward estimates, as confirmed by QTRIP.

Another example is the second M1, another crucial piece of infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic Games, confirmed as a so-called priority for this government—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, there is way too much background noise. I am struggling to hear the member for Coomera now. Please take your conversations outside if you need to talk. I want to hear what the member for Coomera has to say.

**Mr CRANDON:** Another example is the second M1, confirmed as a so-called priority for this government prior to the 2020 election—coincidentally, two years ago. We are only now seeing some action on the ground. But wait! That is not for the whole project; that is only for stage 1 of stage 1. Stage 2 of stage 1 and stage 3 of stage 1 appear to be several years away from even commencing, let alone being completed. I make the point: these are crucial projects for the Olympic Games of 2032.

Where does that leave us with the crucial section from Shipper Drive to the Logan Motorway, the other two-thirds of the second M1—an estimated \$4 billion project? No funding is the answer, save for \$22 million for so-called planning. This is a crucial piece of infrastructure that is hugely important for the northern Gold Coast community as well as the Olympic Games. If that is the pace the government is planning to set in planning and running our 2032 Olympic Games, we are in trouble. We are yet to see a clear and coherent plan for sporting venues for the 2032 games. We are yet to see a plan for the associated infrastructure required to support the games. It remains totally absent, as do the second M1 and exit 38 upgrades.

As noted by the shadow minister and member for Everton, there is a cloud over the Gabba along with a blow-out allegedly in the billions of dollars. May I suggest that if it turns out we have a \$3 billion project at the Gabba to provide 8,000 seats we might be better served using \$2 billion of that—or perhaps all \$3 billion—to do something about the second M1 and complete it, because it is going to be over \$6 billion all up. \$3 billion of that could come across.

We have heard whispers from ALP sources about the inaction and the inability of the government to begin planning for the 2032 Olympics. That leaked its way out into the press. The opposition supports the Olympic Games, as we have made clear all the way through. It can be a catalyst for growth for the whole state. If government ministers want to waste time internally squabbling over who gets responsibility to build what, we will all lose out. Whatever she does, the Premier should not give any more of it to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, because he is stuck in the slow lane and has been since he took on the role. If we want to get somewhere with the 2032 Olympic Games planning, we really do need to get a move on.