




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.43 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Premier's amended motion. When I was a young girl, I grew up around South Brisbane. I can tell the member for South Brisbane that in 1983 there was not a latte to be found. The area was rough as guts. As a child, you never told anyone you lived there. Most of my friends had left but in South Brisbane we stayed, and I am glad we did because I got to see firsthand the transformation of what was previously described as an area of derelict dockyards, unacknowledged brothels and hotels of disrepute. This transformation came as a result of a temporary event but one which changed Brisbane culturally and physically. Expo 88 redefined our entire city, as one oriented towards culture and leisure, of business growth, and it helped to create South Bank Parklands, a 40-hectare site that is now the city's most popular leisure precinct. World Expo raised expectations and created a public appetite for a South Bank that could replicate that sense of social connectedness but also reflected a new modern Queensland—though, to be fair, this was mostly as a result of the removal of the corrupt Bjelke-Petersen government and the election of the Goss Labor government in 1989.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games give us a new opportunity, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to transform our state, but all we have heard from those opposite is sniping and whingeing, undermining and moaning. This is an opposition that do not want the Olympic and Paralympic Games to succeed. They do not want Queensland to succeed. They want to work hard to create maximum misleading damage—the hardest they have ever worked—but it is frustrating for them because the people of Queensland are not fooled. They do not want our state talked down. They know about this wailing and complaining, especially when it is being led by the member for Kawana and chief whiner.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is named after a host city, but it will be a games for all Queenslanders. From Cairns to Coolangatta, Cherbourg to St George, this is a games that is already providing opportunities across the state. A new Gabba is just one example of how the games is not driving its redevelopment, simply accelerating it. A 2018 *Stadium Taskforce Report* highlighted that it is a tired, old venue and would need to undergo major upgrades by 2030 regardless of the games. Just ask the Brisbane Lions. Just like the games themselves, a new Gabba makes Brisbane a must-play destination for national and international sporting events.

Opportunity of tomorrow is also opportunity today. In the sports sphere, there is Youfor2032—the biggest talent search that Australia has ever seen. Youfor2032 has travelled more than 13,000 kilometres, visited 33 towns and cities, conducted over 130 testing sessions and assessed thousands of young Queenslanders. So far 673 children have been offered a place in stage 2 of the QAS-led elite sporting pathways program, but what is really special is that 169 of those kids come from regional areas.

Brisbane 2032 is more than just about four weeks of sport. It will deliver two decades of economic benefits from the day we got the games. KPMG has predicted the games will: boost international tourism and trade by \$4.6 billion for Queensland; create approximately more than 91,000 jobs in Queensland; drive an estimated \$3.5 billion in social benefits to Queensland, including improvements in health, community connectedness and civic pride; and generate industry investment in new skills, capacity and

supply chains, particularly across areas of construction, manufacturing, regional tourism and even sports tech. One of the fastest-growing areas is actually sports tech, tipped to be worth almost \$60 billion globally by 2026. VALD are one of Queensland's shining innovations. Their expertise is now exported to sports teams around the country and around the world.

A new Gabba also delivers the opportunity to expand the priority development area of Woolloongabba and South Brisbane. Its redevelopment will trigger major urban renewal and increase opportunities for social and affordable housing, business and, again, jobs. The games will focus the world's eyes on Queensland, not just in 2032; it will generate the best international advertising campaign Queensland will ever get, providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to market our state as a global destination and place to do business. 2032 is still nearly a decade away but Brisbane, the south-east, our state, is hurtling towards that magic year. 2032 is not just the sporting pinnacle for young athletes. Like Expo 88 was all those years ago, Brisbane 2032 is a beacon for a better Queensland and our government.