



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

- (a) notes that the Gabba redevelopment cost has blown out from \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion;
- (b) notes the statement by the Auditor-General, Mr Worrall, to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee on 13 March 2023 that he doesn't 'think there ever was a business case supporting the billion dollars. I think you'll find the source of that was from a press release.';
- (c) calls on the government to release the results of all business cases, studies, reviews, assessments or similar work relating to the cost of any redevelopment of the Gabba; and
- (d) calls on the government to table these documents no later than 5 pm on Thursday, 30 March 2023.

Of course, tonight we are talking about and debating Olympic and Paralympic infrastructure in the state of Queensland that, as we know, has already had blowouts before it is even planned, evaluated or delivered. It is typical of the Labor Party. A year and a half ago they announced that the original development plan for the Gabba would cost \$1 billion and already we have seen a 170 per cent blowout, that is, before Queenslanders have seen a shovel in the ground or anything. Is it any wonder that in the committee meeting, when asked by our hardworking members such as the member for Burleigh, the Auditor-General said that all he could find for the source of the information for a business case was a press release issued by the government? That makes you wonder: what on earth was the planning and preparation that the Palaszczuk Labor government did with respect to the original Gabba development plan that was to cost \$1 billion? Where did they get the \$1 billion figure from? What plans did they do? What did they draw up? It appears there was nothing because the Auditor-General did not even know about it.

If the Auditor-General were going to undertake a financial inquiry with respect to the Gabba redevelopment, I would say to him, 'Don't worry, Auditor-General, if there's no business case. I have the answer.' It is the envelope that Premier Palaszczuk wrote on when she—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, are you tabling that as an official document or are you putting it down?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will be tabling it, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: You will stop waving it around.

Mr BLEIJIE: Let us look at this document on which the Palaszczuk government planned the Gabba development. On the back of this envelope it says, 'Labor Priority' and 'Red Carpet!' That is their No. 1 priority for the Gabba redevelopment. On the left-hand side of this envelope it has '\$1B' crossed out, '\$2B' crossed out, '\$2.7'—maybe? No, cross that out. What else do we have? '\$1.5'—no, cross that out. '\$5B'—maybe? Cross that out. There is also a big question mark. I table a copy of that. That is how the Labor Party has planned the Olympic infrastructure, on the back of an envelope. I am happy to forward that to the Auditor-General.

Tabled paper: Envelope, undated, titled 'Gabba: Labor Priority: Red carpet' [308](#).

We know that the Premier has made the Olympics all about herself. It is like she has stolen the Olympics from the people of Queensland. I can assure members that that is not how treasurers used to do budgets, particularly the member for Mulgrave. I know that he never did a budget on the back of an envelope, but this new Treasurer does.

As the government plans the Olympics we know that it is the arrogance of this Premier that means it will now all be in-house. She cannot let go of control and power when it comes to the Olympics. It is like she has stolen the Olympics from the Queensland public so that she can have it all in-house. This Premier is the modern-day equivalent of Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome. What was he known for? As his name suggests in Latin, he was known for arrogance and being lofty. We know that the Premier wants to stay in the job and open the Olympics in 2032. While she will not, I ask members to imagine the new Gabba colosseum and out comes 'Empress Palaszczuk' on a chariot that is pulled not by horses but by four backbenchers.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is not using members' proper titles. I ask that he be reminded of the requirement to do so.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a very good point being made. There is an office holding and I ask that you use that, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: Out comes Premier Palaszczuk, on a chariot that is being pulled by a few Labor Party backbenchers. She is waving to the crowds—the colosseum has only 8,000 additional seats, I might add, for a \$2.7 billion cost. She would be like Caesar, giving the thumbs up or down depending on whether or not she likes the performance or the athletes. That is how silly this proposal from the government is in terms of blowouts.

They say that they are doing it all as normal. That is absolutely right. The Labor Party cannot project manage anything on time and on budget. Everything they touch blows out. If they amend this motion it will show how arrogant they are and that the parliament is not holding the Premier to account, as she promised yesterday.

(Time expired)