



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2023

MOTION

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

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

That the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee)—

1. Commence an ongoing public accounts and public works inquiry into preparations for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001;
2. In undertaking the inquiry and periodic report, the Committee will consider all public works to be undertaken for the 2032 Olympics and Paralympics and for each public work address the matters in section 94(2) for its reporting to the Legislative Assembly;
3. Report to the Legislative Assembly on its inquiry periodically, with a report once every six months, with the first report being due on Friday, 16 December 2023 and the second report being due on Friday, 17 May 2024.

This motion is about transparency. This motion is about accountability. This motion is about openness. I would hope that, if members of the Labor Party were true to their word about Olympic expenditure and being accountable to the parliament, they will support this motion to set up this inquiry, an ongoing inquiry of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, into expenditure for the Olympics and the Paralympic Games in 2032.

Brisbane was awarded the Olympics in July 2021 and what have Queenslanders seen since? Not much, other than a lot of red carpet events, a lot of announcements—not much deliverables—trips, taking friends to important meetings who should not be at such meetings, and glitz and glamour. We have seen not much red ribbon cutting, but that will happen by 2032. We have seen a lot of glitz and glamour about the Olympics, but we have not seen too much delivery. We have not seen the rubber hit the road. Time is running out. Take, for instance, Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, a key piece of infrastructure that was announced as part of the 2032 Olympic bid. Where is it? There is not a dollar in the capital expenditure. I see the minister for tourism looks confused over there.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take his confused interjection. I say to the minister that public transport is pretty important for an Olympic Games. The Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail is pretty important to get—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Thank you for resuming your seat, member for Kawana. Put your comments through the chair. Minister, I note you are on the speaking list later, so I ask you to use that as your opportunity to inject yourself into the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am quite concerned that the minister for sport is confused as to what part the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail could play in the 2032 Olympic bid, considering the Sunshine Coast has Olympic venues where we would expect people and passengers to go back and forward from Brisbane, connecting Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and Maroochydore. It is a pretty important part of it, but this shows how dismissive the minister is of the Sunshine Coast passenger heavy rail and

why there is not a dollar in the capital expenditure. If it is not here, it is delayed to the next budget. If it is not in the next budget, it will not happen before the Olympics. Luckily the LNP has committed our state's contribution—50 per cent funding—to the heavy passenger rail. It will not happen under the Labor Party but will happen under a Crisafulli LNP government. That is when rail will happen on the Sunshine Coast.

In the past couple of years we have had a lot of glitz and glamour and a lot of red carpet. What we have not seen is accountability and transparency around expenditure on the Olympics. When I talk about expenditure I talk about an announcement of \$1 billion for the Gabba. There was a big press conference at the Gabba—\$1 billion. Twelve months later, it was \$2.47 billion. What was the Premier's explanation when she was at the Gold Coast? When I talk about the glitz and glamour and the red carpet, I am being serious. When the Premier was at the Gold Coast, the media at the Gold Coast Olympic meeting were told, 'You get one question to the Premier; she will answer only one question.' Local journos could not interrogate the Premier on the expenditure, because the Premier afforded the media people of the Gold Coast only one question each as she did on the Sunshine Coast as well.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, she had to go somewhere. I sometimes say that she has to go to lunch, but in the last 12 months it seems she has to go to lunch, to a superyacht, to Sydney—I don't know—and to anywhere but Queensland it seems at the moment. This motion is about holding the Labor government to account. Its members think they can just spend this money, Queensland taxpayers' money, as though it is monopoly money without any transparency and accountability. This motion holds the government to account. This motion puts parliament in charge of the expenditure and requires a parliamentary committee represented by all sides of politics to integrate and grill ministers when they say the Gabba is going to cost \$1 billion but then blows out to \$2.7 billion. Are we just to take their word for it like the Premier said? Last time, the Premier blamed the Gabba blowout on the Ukraine war! It is time that the people of Queensland see where their money is being spent. The government needs to be held accountable. This is a committee process that is already established. It will be an ongoing process to ensure Queenslanders are getting value for money for the Olympics and can see where their money is being spent to ensure it is being spent on the right things. I urge the government to support it.

(Time expired)