




Speech By
Jim McDonald

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.02 pm): The 2032 Olympics will be a great thing for South-East Queensland and Brisbane, but my community questions whether it will see any legacy items from it. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the world looking at South-East Queensland. We want to make sure they have a great experience. There will be 10 years of investment leading up to the Olympics, but we want to see 10 years of legacy items, including tourism and infrastructure items, delivered during that time. I want to make sure that our community right across greater South-East Queensland actually enjoys something from these Olympics.

It would be remiss of me if I did not go back in time to 2015, when then Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and CEO Scott Smith rallied the councils of South-East Queensland to get behind a feasibility study for the Olympics. Many forget about the leadership shown by the council of mayors and the local government here in South-East Queensland. We need to respect that and see the wonderful legacy that they are going to leave.

I was part of the Lockyer council when Quirk and Smith came around and we were able to convince the state and federal governments to come on board. That is a great thing, and it is wonderful that the Olympics are going to be delivered here. I love the Olympic Games, the greatest show on earth. In fact, when I was young I had a poster from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics with Carl Lewis on it. Members may not know, but I was a fair runner back in the day. Whilst I might have lost those talents, it is great to see South-East Queensland embracing the games.

Those in my community are concerned about some legacy items. It is all right to say that north and south might see infrastructure upgrades and passenger rail, but out to the west of South-East Queensland the Warrego Highway and the Brisbane Valley Highway need upgrades and we need fast passenger rail to Toowoomba. We want to see those projects and legacy items delivered for greater South-East Queensland. I was on hand when Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner addressed the Queensland Media Club the other day, calling for the state and federal governments to fast-track those infrastructure items. That will see legacy items delivered across South-East Queensland.

There are other issues. What if during the games we see some floods? What if during the games we see so much pressure put on our water security? Let's see water security delivered as well. I know that irrigators right across the Somerset and Lockyer would very much appreciate the additional water. People in all towns in greater South-East Queensland, let alone all those visitors who will come here, will need water to drink. It would be embarrassing if they could not get a drink.