




Speech By
Jim McDonald

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

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MOTION

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

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.10 pm): It is a privilege for me to be able to rise this afternoon and support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. 21 July 2021 was a great day for Queensland. It was a great announcement. It took leadership and management to get us to that point. In 2015-16 then lord mayor Graham Quirk and the Council of Mayors South-East Queensland showed great leadership in bringing together a feasibility study and putting on the agenda the Olympics for Brisbane 2032. That was great leadership.

This motion has been moved tonight because we are concerned about the management of this project. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, time is ticking. 2032 is only nine years away. There have been so many shifts and changes, there has been lots of glitz and glamour, but we want to get real things done.

I talked about the leadership of then lord mayor Graham Quirk. The Council of Mayors have continued that. They are calling for infrastructure to be delivered—north and south and out to the west through my area; road, rail and water infrastructure. What about water security for Queenslanders? Wouldn't it be terrible if 2032 comes along and Queenslanders and those visiting cannot get a drink? Seqwater has said that their modelling indicates we are going to run out of water in 2031. What is the plan and what are the infrastructure solutions? Is there going to be a raising of Wivenhoe? That would be very sensible. It was put on the table in 2014 under a LNP government. What is the plan? As I said, time is ticking.

Sir David Higgins knows a thing or two about the Olympics. He was the boss of the London 2012 Olympics and delivered the Olympics a billion dollars under budget and on time. That is why he was knighted. He is a Queenslander. He said on 18 March that he is a bit concerned about the model that this government has. 'It is a talkfest,' he said. There are 22 members on this body—five from the state government, five from the federal government and local government representatives. He said it would be a talkfest.

This is a classic example of the difference between the Labor government and an LNP government. Labor governments put themselves in charge and then outsource work to consultants—in this case Deloitte for \$800,000 to tell us that it is okay to bring it back in house. If anybody is interested in real politics, have a look at the series on the ABC called *Utopia*. There is a new series out now. If members go back to series 2 episode 7 there is a board of consultants who say to government, 'If it is fifty-fifty, which way would you go?' They gave the answer, 'Well, we want it to happen.' I think there might have been some conversations within this government with Deloitte, which is pretty close to the organising committee.

It is one thing to talk about announcements, but it is another thing to deliver infrastructure. That is why I support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It is a good motion. It is about making sure that the risk of the Olympics being delivered over budget and not on time is well managed.

I challenge my fellow members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to vote for this motion because it is a sound motion. We have a track record of being able to deliver bipartisan approaches. Bipartisan approaches are very important because when there is a change of government in October 2024 this side will have had something to do with the management and control of the process and can then keep the ball rolling. The fellow I was talking about before, Sir David Higgins, actually suggested that. What a great idea to have a bipartisan approach. I challenge my fellow members of the committee to vote for the motion.

I recognise that in his contribution the Deputy Premier said, 'We have some oversight.' Yes, we do, but only if Labor members support it. Let us see a motion like this put to our committee to deliver meaningful control. It is all right to have transparency and accountability, but let us deliver an Olympics that is going to be a great thing for Queensland. It is going to be great in terms of an infrastructure legacy. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said, there will be two decades of tourism opportunities—some leading into the games and some after. This is a good motion and it should be supported.