




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.32 pm): We are used to the LNP's euphemism for cuts. When they were in power for that short period it was all about waste. Do you remember that? Waste. 'We have to deal with the waste.' That was just code for cuts, code for selling things off. The new Leader of the Opposition has just thought of a new code for cuts, and that is blowout. It is the same old game from the opposition. They just have to find a euphemism for cuts, for sacking and selling. They never saw an infrastructure project they did not want to cut, and the Gabba is another one of them. They always want to cut, they always want to sack, they always want to sell, and they are still doing it here today. Here we are in Queensland hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and what the opposition—and I might say, the Greens party—the member for South Brisbane obviously is not here—is actually saying—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, it is not appropriate to refer to someone's absence from the chamber.

Mr BAILEY: I take your direction, Mr Speaker. What they are saying is that we should have the games, although the Greens party might have a different view, but we should not have a stadium that is best practice and inclusive for people of all mobilities. That is what they are saying. I expect that from the LNP but I do not expect it from the Greens party, because you can always look at what the Greens party does rather than what it says. They say they support the environment, but then they moved amendments in here to water down our tough tree-clearing laws. They say they support action on climate change, but then they voted with the LNP in the Senate against the emissions trading scheme. They say they support people with disabilities, but the member for South Brisbane actually said in here that you can bring it up to standard at a fraction of the cost of \$2.7 billion. Is she an expert in disability? I do not think so.

The advice to government is that if we are to be genuinely inclusive of female athletes, of athletes of all abilities, then the current stadium cannot be retrofitted for the Paralympic Games. This government will not have the Paralympic Games without a stadium that is fit for purpose for people of all mobilities, for athletes with wheelchairs and all kinds of different abilities. How embarrassing would it be for our state to put up a shabby, second-rate, non-inclusive stadium for the Paralympic Games in 2032? What a humiliation that would be. That is what the opposition and the Greens party are proposing in an unholy alliance. If you want the Paralympics, if you want the best athletes, you have to have the best infrastructure.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you are interjecting. You are not in your seat. You are on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Logan withdrew from the chamber at 5.35 pm.

Mr BAILEY: You can talk about inclusion all you want, but what matters is when you back in infrastructure that includes everybody in our community. The opposition and the Greens party are showing they are duplicitous about letting people down in this day and age. It is 2023. We are heading towards the 2032 Paralympic Games and Olympic Games. Everybody of all mobilities should be—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY:—included when it comes to using the Gabba, either as a patron or as a participant. It is our premier stadium. It is not just sport; it is also the great arts contest that—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left! Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, are you having some kind of out-of-body experience? You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: You have to practice what you preach, and that is what this government does. We are building Cross River Rail to service the Gabba. If we want world-class international artists to come here, we have to make sure that people of all mobilities can participate freely in a way that is genuinely inclusive.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, this is your final caution.

Mr BAILEY: It is embarrassing for people in wheelchairs to have to get to their seats in a goods lift. I do not support that for a jot, and neither should any member of this parliament. It is sad to see derision and yelling from those opposite when we are talking about the inclusion of people with disabilities at the Gabba. It is shameful and pathetic. After eight years over there you have learned nothing about genuinely supporting an inclusive society for people of all abilities. That is what we are doing at the Gabba. That is what the LNP has not learned. Most people learn from opposition. You have learned absolutely nothing.