




Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

**MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier. If the member for South Brisbane does not want investment in her electorate, I know the people in my electorate would like it, as would be the case for the electorate of any other member here.

I am excited about the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games because it will be a game changer—

**Dr MacMahon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry to interrupt you, member for Macalister. Member for South Brisbane, you know the rules. You have been warned under the standing orders. You are interjecting. You can leave the chamber for one hour. It does not matter whether it is question time, debate on a bill or debate of a motion, the standing rules and orders apply.

*Whereupon the honourable member for South Brisbane withdrew from the chamber at 5.22 pm.*

**Mrs McMAHON:** This will be a renaissance of Olympic proportions for Queensland. Not since the Commonwealth Games of 1982 and Expo 88 will an event transform Queensland. This will likely leave a legacy larger than both of those combined.

In 1982 we got to show off our backyard, our climate and our athletes. In 1988 we got to show off our lifestyle and our innovation. What I will be most proud of when we have the Olympic flame lit in 2032 will be showing off the most inclusive games in history—such a long way from those first Olympics some 2,800 years earlier with male only competitors and spectators.

I am excited for what 2032 will bring to Queensland. I am excited for my community. But there is a cohort in my community whom I am most excited for. That is our junior female athletes and our differently-abled athletes.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** I know those on the other side of the House could not give two pinches. Our Olympics will be run and our facilities built with them not just as an afterthought but their needs as part of the design brief. The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the most inclusive. It will aim to have equal numbers of female and male participants and will have the largest number of athletes ever competing in a Paralympics. That is something that I am proud to stand here and support. I urge all those opposite to support it as well.

Our current Gabba—the wonderful, iconic venue that it is—needs to be up to this task. The Gabba redevelopment is poised to ensure that. The Gabba does need an upgrade. Even with redevelopment starting in 2026, the newest parts of the Gabba will be 21 years old. In a 2018 stadiums task force report it was assessed that the Gabba only had a remaining useful life of 11½ years, taking it through to only 2030. We cannot sit and wait. This project needs to be on line and proofed well before 2032. The Gabba currently does not even have change rooms for elite female athletes.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** Those opposite could not care less. I know those opposite are reluctant to embrace female participation over there, but surely they support our elite athletes for more than just photograph opportunities.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Mrs McMAHON:** Accessibility for speculators is also not up to scratch. It only caters for 66 wheelchairs. In some cases, wheelchair users have to use a goods lift just to be able to access the stadium. The Gabba redevelopment will see facilities—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mrs McMAHON:**—specifically built for female athletes—not just as an afterthought and retrospectively fitted. This is not just for the Games but for the longer term legacy tenants of the venue and future athletes. What a wonderful venue for our Brisbane Heat WBBL and Brisbane Lions AFLW teams.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs McMAHON:** They do not care. They say that they can go and use the modules outside. We value them and they deserve world-class facilities. On this side of the House we value their contribution to the Brisbane and Queensland sporting landscape. I can just imagine the look on a young female player's face when they get to use world-class facilities. Those opposite do not care about our young female athletes—'You guys can just have a renovated space. Go out the back and use the renovated space.' This is not just a 'nice to have'—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders. Members to my left will cease their interjections.

**Mrs McMAHON:** This is not just a 'nice to have' or a piece of 'gender inclusive wokism'; it is actually a requirement of the intergovernmental agreement. We must, as it says, 'provide infrastructure, spaces, services and information which are accessible and inclusive, enabling full, effective participation, including for persons with disability'.

*(Time expired)*