




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gabba Redevelopment; North-West Queensland Floods, Recovery

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic and Paralympic Games Infrastructure) (10.46 am): The Palaszczuk government will rebuild the Gabba to support the long-term professional sport, community and entertainment needs of Queensland before and after 2032. Queenslanders, in particular cricket and AFL fans, deserve a world-class stadium that is accessible for the public and has the facilities our elite athletes need. The Gabba project is about much more than a stadium: it will anchor our vision for the future of the city and our region. It will meet our flagship heavy rail transport project, Cross River Rail, and the Brisbane City Council's Metro project. It will sit at the heart of Australia's biggest and most visionary urban renewal project, effectively extending that wonderful legacy of Expo 88 South Bank from the Gabba at one end to Kurilpa and the Brisbane Arena at Roma Street at the other.

Given the complexity of building on a constrained site, completely rebuilding the Gabba is the best value-for-money option to bring it to a truly accessible modern standard. This option also makes the Gabba fully compliant with the requirements of hosting Brisbane 2032 events. The cost to deliver—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I recall there was a debate in the House yesterday about this. It is not appropriate to try and revisit that debate across the chamber. I ask the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, and others, to cease their cross-chamber chatter.

Dr MILES: I suspect we will be revisiting that debate a fair bit over the next 18 months. The cost to deliver this project, as we have outlined, is estimated at \$2.716 billion. The Premier secured a similar matching contribution from the Albanese government to the Brisbane Arena. Let us be very clear: if you are unwilling to fund what it is estimated to cost you, you will not be able to build it and Queensland will miss this historic—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Dr MILES: Sorry, Mr Speaker. Those opposite might have missed what I just said. If you are unwilling to fund what a project will cost, then you cannot build it—you will not build it—and Queensland will miss this historic opportunity to have a world-class oval stadium close to town and the urban renewal that will come with it. This estimate incorporates key design assumptions and significant price escalation through to construction completion as a result of the prevailing market conditions and risks and contingencies.

In 2020 the IOC required Queensland to respond to the Olympics host questionnaire in just a few months. We engaged world renowned, Queensland-based stadium architects Populous to provide a design. A cost estimate in 2020 dollars was included in the host questionnaire based on that design. The earlier indicative cost of the Gabba redevelopment was in 2020 dollars and excluded construction cost escalation and supply chain constraints—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana and member for Toowoomba South!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Interjections will cease from both sides or I will start naming members.

Dr MILES: The earlier indicative cost of the Gabba redevelopment was in 2020 dollars and excluded construction cost escalation—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Dr MILES:—and supply chain constraints, and other costs unknown at the time. It pre-dated the post-COVID increases in costs, the global inflation surge and the war in Ukraine—all events that were not predicted in 2020.

Significant further planning has occurred since winning the games. A project validation process is underway. The first stage of the PVR assessed and costed four different redevelopment options. The updated cost estimates were done independently by expert cost estimation consultants. The bulk of the cost increase was increased building costs in the years between 2020 and 2030. Inflation and building and labour costs alone account for most of the increase. That accords with what industry reports to us, including analysis from Infrastructure Australia.

The next most substantial contribution to the increase relates to allowance for six-star green rating. This venue will serve Queensland well past 2050 when we have committed to be net carbon neutral. We have also committed that the games will be carbon positive. It is important that the venue is as sustainable as possible within the capacity of current technology and product capability. That comes at an increased cost. The new estimate includes costs at the anticipated time of delivery—that is, 2026 to 2030.

Now that we have settled on a preferred redevelopment option, the Olympics and Paralympics infrastructure office within my department will now focus on completing the project validation report ahead of taking the project to market. It is due to be completed in mid-2023. Once the project validation report is complete, a competitive market process will be launched to allow the design of the Gabba to be developed and for the associated construction works to commence.

The Gabba will be the kind of stadium we on this side of the House believe Queenslanders deserve—one that is accessible for people with a disability, one that treats women athletes equally, one that you can catch the train or walk to—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Dr MILES:—and one with the best spectator and athlete experiences anywhere in the world. It will serve the Lions and the Australian cricket team into the second half of the century. It is part of a visionary plan to build the homes, transport and attractions of the kind of world city Brisbane will be once we have hosted the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As I reported yesterday, acting Queensland Reconstruction Authority CEO Jimmy Scott and incoming CEO Jake Ellwood met with the Burke shire deputy mayor and the Mount Isa mayor yesterday in Mount Isa. They report that they were impressed with the recovery efforts underway. I was pleased to receive a report from them this morning. One thing of note that they were particularly impressed with was the number of evacuated schoolchildren continuing their education in Mount Isa schools, which is wonderful to hear. Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been activated to provide assistance, and the Queensland government is continuing to engage with the community to understand their recovery requirements.