



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**MOTION**

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.54 pm): Let's cut some of the subject matter of the future speakers and make it clear now: we support the Olympics! We love the Olympics! We wish the Olympics would come here every four years, and we support the projects that are necessary for us to have a successful Olympics. This is the reason we are having this motion. The reason we want this motion to get up is we want these Olympics to be the best Olympics ever. Therefore, we have to do something that is a foreign concept to the government, and that is to be accountable. I quickly looked up the definition of 'accountable': 'the obligation or willingness to accept responsibility for one's actions'. One other source says, 'Being completely responsible for what they do and must be able to give a satisfactory reason for it'. That is what 'accountable' is, and that is what we are going to do and that is what we want to happen right now because we have no time to waste.

The reason we want this is this government has a record of blowouts and making promises that are never completed. They make promises about the future, hoping that people will forget them or that they will lapse and they will make some sort of re-announcements if they are lucky enough to get back in. But there is one big difference about the Olympics: it is in 2032; there is a deadline. It is not going to change. We have to make sure that we keep the projects accountable because we know what this government is like when it comes to blowouts—and they have been mentioned by some of my colleagues already—whether it is Cross River Rail, whether it is Gold Coast Light Rail, whether it is the Coomera Connector, whether it is water projects. There has been blowout after blowout after blowout.

Here is the scary thing: over the next nine years, there is around about \$7 billion to \$8 billion worth of projects that we have to make sure are completed. I do not know about you, but I do not trust this mob. This mob's track record shows that they cannot be trusted when it comes to being on time and on budget. I already mentioned the classic example, the very big elephant in the room when it comes to infrastructure, and that is the Gabba refurbishment. \$1 billion was the original announcement—

**Mr Crisafulli:** On the world stage.

**Mr MANDER:** On the world stage—I will take the interjection from the opposition leader. The Auditor-General was asked, 'Where did that \$1 billion come from?' He said, 'I think it is from a media release.' No business plan and no study. An announcement had to be made. He was asked if the federal government knew about it and he said, 'Well, they will know about it now.' Then a year later they come out with this \$2.7 billion—\$2.7 billion—again, no transparency, no business plan, no idea what is happening. \$2.7 billion on a stadium. The Optus Stadium in Perth, which houses 65,000, three or four years ago cost \$840 million. \$2.7 billion on a stadium that has 52,000 seats! Queenslanders deserve to know the rationale behind that and the business plan behind that and what is the timetable to make sure that that happens. The people in the cricket world, the people in the AFL world, East Brisbane

State School—all of those people are wondering what the heck is happening and there has been a lack of transparency. That is one of the reasons that we need this standing committee to make sure we keep the government accountable.

The amendment that the government has brought in, quickly put together by the Deputy Premier, mentions the estimates hearings. We all know what, under this government, a joke the estimate hearings are. They insult us, and therefore insult Queenslanders, to think that that is the best way to keep the government accountable on \$8 billion worth of projects. We are committed to this motion because we have a vested interest. We have a vested interest because when we start opening some of those stadiums and some of those projects when we get into government next year we want to make sure that things are on budget and on time, and if we do not have this motion up, I do not trust the government's ability to deliver.