




Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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**BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AND  
OTHER LEGISLATION BILL**

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.38 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. As the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation, I support this bill and the 100-day review of our infrastructure and transport needs required for the 2032 games. I have raised on many occasions over the last four years the fact that the original intent of seeking the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games got lost under the leadership of then premier Palaszczuk and then premier Miles.

When the SEQ Council of Mayors first pitched the concept of bidding for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games it was for three reasons: one, so that this part of Queensland, indeed all of Queensland, would benefit from legacy investment in transport, road, rail, bus, infrastructure, the length and breadth of the state; to invest in legacy sporting infrastructure, community infrastructure, infrastructure that our kids playing soccer, netball, any sport would benefit from for years to come, and a legacy around tourism when the world's focus would be on Brisbane and Queensland. It was in our hands to make sure that that focus stayed for decades to come.

Unfortunately, under Premier Palaszczuk, the focus became on red carpets. It became on glitz and glamour. It became on trying to take the shine away from the games themselves and put the shine on herself. When those opposite realised that that focus was detracting from their political opportunities, they changed leadership to Premier Miles. Unfortunately, in changing leadership, it did not change the outcome for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and when their own review produced results that they did not like, they came up with harebrained schemes, including spending billions of dollars on putting temporary facilities at QSAC which is just ludicrous. What sort of legacy will that leave the state of Queensland?

I do back this legislation which establishes that 100-day review of our infrastructure and transport needs for the 2032 games. I do it also because we have an unparalleled green and gold runway for Queensland's tourism in the lead-up to this games. We know that the Olympic and Paralympic Games deliver millions of visitors to their host city, their host state, their host nation. Those visitors come for the sport, but we want to make sure they stay for the state. We have the best tourism offerings in Australia, and under the of Crisafulli LNP government those nature-based tourism offerings are set to bloom. We are committed to clearing the hurdles for operators who want to bring people into the beauty of Queensland, right into the heart of it, because we know that once they have had that taste, they will spread the word and they will hold the conservation and preservation of those natural wonders dear to their own hearts. Whether it is the reef or the rainforest, the outback or the opera here in Brisbane, Queensland has so much to offer. That is why in conjunction with this 100-day review, my department is leading a 20-year tourism plan, including consultation the length and the breadth of the state as we

do so. We want to know what our tourism operators need in preparation for the Olympic Games, not just in the lead-up to the games, but to ensure we get not one but two decades of legacy for our tourism industry.

We have to make sure that these games deliver for Queensland. Only the LNP will fix the 1,200 days of Labor's games chaos—1,200 days. All we are asking for is 100 days to get it fixed. This bill will deliver the solution with an independent infrastructure coordination authority tasked with developing an implementation plan within those 100 days. Without that critical audit of facilities and of the requirements—the transport and community sport legacy requirements—we cannot deliver the legacy that these games should deliver. We owe it to our children, to our future athletes, and to each and every tourism operator and every single Queenslanders that those operators employ to get this right. I support this legislation.