




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.11 pm): I rise to address the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Introduced by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations, this legislation seeks to amend the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, the Public Sector Act 2022 and the Path to Treaty Act 2022.

I first wish to address those amendments as they pertain to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. When it comes to the infrastructure and planning that is required for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is clear that the former state Labor government was woefully underprepared. The collective multipremier and multim ministerial failure of the former Labor state government to properly plan for the infrastructure needs of Queensland has put our great state at risk of missing the immense multigenerational opportunities that this once-in-a-lifetime global event presents.

On 26 October 2024, Queenslanders spoke loud and decisively. Queenslanders voted for the Liberal National Party's Right Plan for Queensland's Future and Fresh Start for Queensland. Queenslanders voted for change. They made it clear that not only do they want their state to host a world-class Olympic and Paralympic Games but also, more importantly, they want the legacy infrastructure that will transform our state and improve the lives of all Queenslanders for decades to come. I know there are those within the state Labor opposition who are yet to accept this, but Queenslanders well and truly voted for the Crisafulli LNP state government's plan to end the over 1,200 days of Labor chaos and crisis and deliver the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority, tasked with developing an implementation plan within 100 days.

This is about more than just meeting the baseline requirements of hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games. This is about delivering on the promises the Liberal National Party made to the people of Queensland—our promise to ensure that these Olympic Games deliver a lasting legacy with benefits that are realised right across our state. This includes generational infrastructure and a tourism plan that is truly worthy of our state. Time is of the essence. That is why within its first 100 days the Liberal National Party government is taking decisive action—the action that Queenslanders voted for—to address the failings of the former state Labor government.

As I said earlier today, it is now time to get on with the job. Queenslanders cannot afford further setbacks and further international embarrassment caused by the chaos, crisis, delays and mismanagement under the former Labor state government. Delivering a successful Olympic and Paralympic Games is not just an obligation; it is an opportunity—the likes of which we have never had before—to showcase Queensland on the world stage to an unprecedented global audience. Moreover, these Olympic Games provide us with a platform to showcase our rich culture, diverse communities

and natural beauty. Queensland is already one of the most desirable destinations in the world, and the Olympics will allow us to tell our story to a global audience like never before. This is not just about the spectacle of sport; it is about reinforcing Queensland's place as a global destination for investment, innovation, leisure and opportunity.

We have a unique opportunity now to unleash Queensland's potential and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. A world-class Olympics demands world-class preparation, vision and implementation. The Liberal National Party is determined to get on with the job and make the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games a success that every Queenslander can be proud of. These games are not just a moment in history; they are an opportunity to cement Queensland's future. It is time to move forward, time to deliver and time to ensure the legacy of the 2032 Games is a Queensland that is stronger, more connected and more prosperous than ever before.

I wish to now briefly address those amendments as they pertain to the Work Health and Safety Act. All Queenslanders deserve a safe workplace. It is a fundamental right, not a privilege, that every worker should leave home at the start of their shift and return safely to their loved ones at the end of the day. This basic yet fundamental expectation must be protected by strong, fair and effective legislation—legislation that ensures the health, safety and welfare of workers across Queensland.

Queensland's Work Health and Safety Act 2011 has long served to ensure the wellbeing of Queensland's workforce. It is important legislation. However, as with all legislation, it is incumbent on the parliament of the day to ensure that any legislation must, where evident and necessary, evolve to meet new challenges, strengthen protections and correct past failures. The changes that are proposed in this legislation enshrine the Liberal National Party's firm commitment to safe workplaces and the position that the Liberal National Party debated and adopted in the 57th Parliament of Queensland prior to the 2024 Queensland state election.

Under the former state Labor government, the safety of Queensland workers was politicised and compromised. Labor's amendments in the 57th Parliament were more about suiting their blatant political agenda than about worker safety, selling out the very people they claim to represent. The Crisafulli state Liberal National Party government will not allow that to continue. The Liberal National Party is committed to promoting safe and productive workplaces across Queensland. Our approach balances strong worker protections with practical, effective regulations that support both safety and productivity.

One of the key changes in this legislation is the introduction of a 24-hour notice period for entry permit holders. This should not be controversial as it aligns with the federal Fair Work Act, ensuring consistency in how workplace inspections are conducted. That aligns with what the federal Labor government has implemented itself. By providing such notice, we are fostering a cooperative approach to inspections—one that respects businesses whilst also maintaining rigorous safety standards. These changes underscore the importance of creating workplaces that are productive but are also places where safety is a shared priority. Strong legislation, clear expectations and sound practices form the foundation of safe workplaces.

By strengthening the Work Health and Safety Act, the Liberal National Party is ensuring that Queensland workers are protected today, tomorrow and for years to come. The Liberal National Party is committed to creating workplaces where safety is non-negotiable, where every worker is valued and where families can rest assured that their loved ones will come home safely.

Finally, I wish to address matters pertaining to the Path to Treaty Act. Over many years I have long maintained that, with all matters that pertain to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is incumbent on the state government of the day to seek a way forward that unites rather than divides. The pathway under the former state Labor government was always one that would only lead to more division and not one that has ever focused on improving real and practical outcomes. The Liberal National Party is committed to delivering real, tangible outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. For too long, First Nations communities have been let down by policies of the former state Labor government that failed to focus on genuine solutions.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I hear the member for Bulimba interjecting. The former Labor government has failed on closing the gap here in Queensland and our First Nations Queenslanders have been falling behind. The latest *Queensland Closing the Gap: Annual report 2023* revealed that nine of the 17 key targets are not on track. These include critical areas such as housing, education and health.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I know that the member for Bulimba is ashamed of the former government in relation to the fact that they have not been closing the gap here in Queensland. The member for Bulimba interjects because the member for Bulimba, as the former minister for education, child safety and other

portfolios, and as a member of the former government, failed here in Queensland—failed to close the gap on Indigenous communities. It was widening in relation to health, education and housing under the former government. That is why the members opposite are embarrassed when it comes to their track record here in Queensland—a track record which is abysmal and shameful when it comes to that.

These figures are more than just a statement in an annual report. They are a reflection of systemic failures under the former state Labor government that have left First Nations Queenslanders disadvantaged for too long. The Liberal National Party believes it is time to turn this around and focus on initiatives that make a real difference, with dedicated funding towards practical, measurable actions aimed at reducing disadvantage and closing the gap.

The Liberal National Party state government will focus on lifting living standards in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, particularly in discrete First Nations communities where basic amenities are often lacking. The Liberal National Party state government will work closely with agencies, local leaders and communities to improve health, education and employment outcomes. This means fostering partnerships that deliver meaningful change on the ground.

By providing certainty to all stakeholders and ensuring funding is provided to initiatives that deliver measurable benefits, we will work towards a future where every Queenslanders, regardless of background, has the opportunity to thrive. The Liberal National Party stands ready to deliver that future and a fresh start for Queensland—and that is what Queenslanders voted for. I commend the bill to the House.