




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2024

**BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.00 pm): It is interesting following the member for Kawana. I remember in 2012 when they asked for a chance to review and fix things, but we then had the Campbell Newman train race through Queensland and buyers' regret was almost immediate once they did get in. I say to Queenslanders: heed our warning, do not trust what the LNP would do if they ever got into government.

I rise to commend the bill to the House. Our committee reviewed the bill and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on it. I believe every Queenslander is proud that the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held here in 2032. Queenslanders are keen to see it be a success and Queenslanders want to showcase their state to the rest of the world; there is no doubt about that. Everyone we talk to in Queensland is very engaged about the Olympics. As I said in the foreword of the report, everyone has a firm opinion on how the Olympics should be run—taxidrivers talk to me about the Gabba, retired engineers tell me how we can build roads and local members of parliament are keen to see legacy items for their electorates. Everyone supports it, and everyone has opinions on what should be done.

In terms of the member for Kawana's amendments, we are currently hearing people say, 'I want this named as a legacy,' 'I want that as a legacy,' 'I want this as a legacy.' This bill makes it really clear that legacy will be at the centre of every action of this new authority and the organising committee. It is too easy to say we want to make a legacy here, there and everywhere. It is embedded as a principle at the centre of everything we do and that is an important point to remember about this bill. Clause 53AE(a) says that legacy will be at the centre of everything this authority does. That is the best way to deal with it, instead of exhaustively listing all the things that should be legacy items.

The bill establishes two bodies and this is a very similar structure to what was used in Sydney in 2000 and London in 2012. One of the best ways I have heard this being described is when Dr de Bruyn said at one of our hearings to think of it as the committee putting on the play and the authority being responsible for setting up the stage for that play. I think that is a very good way to envisage how the structure will work. The authority will set up the stage for the Olympics. They will have the financial independence and the flexibility to set up that stage.

What a great way to start setting up that stage with the announcement the other day of \$500 million going into those first venues that will support 1,000 jobs. This is for the Sunshine Coast Stadium, which we are excited about in Moreton Bay because it is close by, and also the Chandler indoor stadium. That is \$300 million worth of work going into the Sunshine Coast which is a great boost to that economy. Tenders for a quarter of that \$1.87 billion program of minor venues will be going out within the next few months or year. The member for Kawana has talked down our progress but I believe we are well ahead, and in just a few months we will be able to see exactly what progress we have made on that.

I have talked about the legacy, and we have heard about the issue of transport as well. This bill says that a transport and mobility plan will be finished within 18 months. That plan will identify actions that need to be taken, it will prioritise what needs to be done and it will integrate all of these initiatives into the current existing system. To get that plan, you need approval of all nine Olympic partners. What we have there is a great way forward to properly identify what we need and plan how we do it. We know how long it can take for transport programs, but we know that the more planning you do at the front the better it will be and it will save delays at the end.

Another part of this bill is that a games coordination plan will be drawn up by the authority within 12 months, I think. A lot of issues were raised by submitters—such as an emergency response and security. Those things will be addressed in the games coordination plan. A lot of people brought up a variety of smaller issues related to their areas—‘What about this? What about that?’ We need to look to the games coordination plan to see many of those issues addressed, and I think many Queenslanders will be happy when that comes out to see how their issues are being included in this coordination plan. That plan identifies what needs to be done by the government, which are the obligations, and how and when that is due, which is the allocation and coordination of all of those elements.

One issue the committee talked about was the planning. The authority is going to use the planning networks that already exist in Queensland. Planning networks are there to get this job done. As a last resort, as an exception, there will be reserve powers but it was made very clear that they will be used sparingly and only as a last resort.

Finally, the committee talked about the board, and there is a lot in this bill about the board. We heard how the panel will put forward a list of names to the minister, so the panel plays a large role in choosing who will be on that board. No elected officials will be on that board. The bill talked a lot about how that bill will be constituted. The nine games partners will have their representatives on there, mainly CEOs from council. There will be a lot of them on that panel to choose that board.

Finally, we have talked about legacy but there is one part of legacy that I see in my sports clubs that we have not talked about, and that is the legacy for those junior athletes. In the Redcliffe Hockey Club, I see the juniors looking up to Hannah Cullum-Sanders, Jordan Bliss and Josh Blakey, who are all Australian representatives. These young athletes look up to these ones and think, ‘I want to be like them. I want to represent my country. I want to wear the green and gold in my home town in 2032.’ I remind members that that is a legacy that we do not talk about and maybe we do not see enough of, but never underestimate the example these senior athletes are setting to inspire those junior athletes to train harder and become the best they can so they can wear the green and gold in 2032 in their home town. I commend this bill to the House.