




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.36 pm): I support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill and of course I support the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games 2032. It was very interesting listening to the contribution from the member for South Brisbane. Apparently there is no indication that we are doing anything in relation to public transport. I do not know, but has the member missed that large hole in the ground called the Cross River Rail, a fair chunk of which is in her electorate? I would have thought that that would give a pretty clear indication of our commitment to public transport. I would also say that that project was initiated and paid for in full by the Palaszczuk Labor government and now the Miles Labor government well before the Olympics were bid for and won by the state of Queensland. That demonstrates that the statements being put forward by the member are completely false and ridiculous. This is a government that is committed to building social housing, public transport, hospitals, schools and all of the other infrastructure that Queensland needs, and we can do it because we own our electricity-generating assets and because we have progressive coal royalties.

I also want to correct something else that the member said. She talked about the lack of consultation with the local soccer club. I find that very interesting, because the Kangaroo Point Rovers actually approached me. They had approached their local member to talk about the Olympics and the potential benefits from the Olympics, but guess what? They said that every time they approached their local member all she wanted to do was talk about how terrible the Olympics were and talk the Olympics down and say that she did not want to be a part of it and tried to engage them in a protest against the Olympics. However, the Kangaroo Point Rovers are part of the Olympic sporting movement, so they support the Olympics and they want to get the best outcome for their club. They want a good legacy out of this. They got sick of approaching their local member, so they went to their member next door—me—and I took them to meet the sports minister, who was also the legacy minister at the time, and that would be documented in his ministerial diary and so very easy to prove. I certainly am a great supporter of the Olympics, as are the Kangaroo Point Rovers, and they are not the only sporting club, business or community group that has come to see me.

I am really excited about the Olympic and Paralympic Games. I am so excited that I am wearing my Olympics tie, but I am not channelling my inner Ted here.

Mr Lister: Table the tie.

Mr KELLY: I am not tabling the tie. I got this tie as a gift from the Australian Olympic Committee for my role in setting up the Parliamentary Friends of the Olympics and Paralympics Movement. This group is a cross-parliamentary group that has seen wide participation by all MPs at various events we have held over the last few years. I hope, in the spirit of the Olympics and Paralympics and the parliamentary friends group, we can find a lot of common ground in relation to the games.

I am really sad to read the statement of reservation from the member for Traeger and hear his contribution here tonight. These games will be a massive boost for our entire state. Anywhere that counts tourism as an important part of the local economy should see the inherent value in the way these games will put our state on the map. I have spoken before about the legacy of Expo 88 and I can see some of those benefits still playing out today in my electorate decades and decades after that event. We will see even greater benefits coming from the Olympics. It strikes me as odd that regional members are down on these games. If I am asked to name two of my greatest Olympians, the two people who spring to my mind are Cathy Freeman and Anna Meares, both from regional Queensland. I would have thought all Queensland MPs would get behind the Olympics and Paralympics.

This bill establishes the mechanisms that will greatly assist in managing the games in a manner that gets politics out of it. I support it because the people in my community support the games and want to see them succeed. Our community knows that if the games succeed Queensland succeeds and our entire nation succeeds. We are pleased that some of these events are on our doorstep. Regardless of wherever these events are going to be held, our community supports the games. Whenever I go to local sporting or community events and I meet people, they are so excited about the boost these games are going to bring to sport in Queensland. We saw the amazing uplift in women's football after the success of the Matildas last year. Our clubs are bursting at the seams with young women wanting to play sport. We can see the Olympics and Paralympics doing that for all sports in Queensland—whether they are Olympic sports or not. All boats will rise on the back of the Olympics and Paralympics.

Last weekend in this city we hosted various events: the Women's State of Origin, which I had the pleasure of going to; the Magic Round, and I also had the pleasure of going to two of those games; Paniyiri; the Doomben 10,000; and the Macklemore concert, which I did not actually get to. It is just six years since we hosted arguably one of the most successful Commonwealth Games, and I note the minister's announcement about the involvement of Mayor Tom Tate in this process. I think that is very welcome because he is a great supporter of the Commonwealth Games and I know he is a great supporter of the Olympics and the Paralympics. All of these events show that Brisbane, South-East Queensland and Queensland are more than capable of hosting major events, and of course we have no problem in anticipating and moving towards hosting the world's No. 1 event. As I have said, the public transport infrastructure is already well on its way to being ready. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is tackling the housing issues, and this will encourage not just construction in the housing sector but construction across the board which will be beneficial for the hotels and other accommodation we need to build.

In just over two months, Paris will be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games opening ceremonies, and I have no doubt the majority of the members of this House will enjoy those games, and I cannot wait. I know that in 2032 when the opening ceremony for these games commences whoever is in this House at the time will be doing their best to get themselves a ticket. I have no doubt that the KAP members will be there. Whether it is here in South-East Queensland or in North Queensland, they will be at events. The member for South Brisbane and the member for Maiwar will be there. They might have a protest T-shirt on but they will be there, I can guarantee it. They will love it. The LNP will be enjoying the hospitality, no doubt, and Labor will be there. Our entire state will stand with pride when the Olympic torch is lit in our state, and we will stand with pride when the Paralympians show us what real triumph looks like. Let us stop the nonsense. Let us get on with it. Let us work together to deliver the best Olympic and Paralympic Games. I commend the bill to the House.