




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.23 pm): Well, hasn't all that talk about headless chooks put the cat amongst the pigeons!

Government members interjected.

Mr RUSSO: You should never listen to your colleagues; they will always lead you astray.

I rise to speak to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024. The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee report No. 9, 57th Parliament, *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill*, tabled in this Assembly on 17 May 2024, recommended that the bill be passed. The bill amends the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and its board.

It is proposed that the main functions of the authority will be to deliver venues in time for the games and within budget allocations, including managing effects on users of the venues during their development; monitor and ensure the delivery of villages in time for the games; and coordinate and integrate the planning and delivery of state, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the host contract. The proposed authority will have a board of directors to ensure the authority performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way. The board will have the capacity to establish committees and commissions of an advisory nature. The authority may employ a chief executive officer and other staff. Alternatively, other government agencies may also agree to make the services of officers or employees available to the authority.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games continue to be an issue of intense interest to Queenslanders, and I have found that members of my community, like many Queenslanders across the state, have passionately held views on both the Olympics in general as well as a special interest in potential upgrades to the Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre, QSAC, in Nathan, which is in my electorate. It was interesting to learn the committee had a similar experience, with stakeholders seemingly holding a range of firmly held opinions on how to run the event. The committee found, nevertheless, that the array of stakeholders who made a submission to their inquiry were content to contain their contributions to their written submissions. They had little desire to repeat their comments in hearings before the committee.

Along with establishing the authority, the bill also includes setting out the key functions for the authority, including their remit to create legacy plans or long-term benefits that will serve Queensland and Queenslanders before, during and long after 2032. These legacies could be sporting, social, environmental, urban or economic benefits and they could also be in tangible or intangible forms. I commend the bill to the House.