




Speech By
Hon. Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Premier) (9.38 am): One of my first acts as Premier was to order a review into the Olympic and Paralympic Games sports venues. I did that because Queenslanders told me they did not want to spend \$2.7 billion on the Gabba.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, you will cease your intersections, as will you, Minister for Health.

Mr MILES: I was hopeful the review would identify a better value option. I want to thank Graham Quirk and the other reviewers for their work. In 60 days the panel received more than 900 submissions, held 130 meetings with a range of stakeholders and made nearly 30 site visits. I agree with most of what they found: the Gabba demolition is too expensive and Albion Park is not suitable. My cabinet carefully considered the review and we have decided to accept 27 of the 30 recommendations.

What I could not decide to do is to commit \$3.4 billion of Queenslanders' money to a new stadium. While Queenslanders are struggling with housing and other costs, we cannot decide to spend billions more on new stadiums. I ordered this review because Queenslanders told me they did not want to spend \$2.7 billion on the Gabba. I know they do not want to spend \$3.4 billion on a new venue so I have ruled that out. Instead, we have decided to ensure every additional cent goes to Queenslanders, so we have decided to stick to the existing funding envelope. I could not decide to accept spending an extra \$700 million and probably more once transport and demolition costs were accounted for. That money belongs to—

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member for Maroochydore.

Mr MILES: Instead, we will upgrade three existing stadiums and build the arena, all within the existing funding envelope. That will include upgrading Suncorp Stadium to host the opening and closing ceremonies. We will also make upgrades to the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre. That will all be overseen by the independent delivery authority that I announced late last year.

Brisbane is going to put on the best ever Olympic and Paralympic Games. Our legacy will be upgraded venues across the state. However, the best legacy a premier can leave is making sure each and every Queenslanders has a place to call home, can put food on their table and feels safe. I, for one, am committed to making decisions in the interests of Queenslanders, even when that means making tough calls.