




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER LEGISLATION BILL

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.52 pm): At the outset of my short contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I take the opportunity to congratulate all returning members. I would also like to acknowledge the inaugural speeches that we have heard today from members on both sides of the chamber. I always find them fascinating, and I congratulate all of the new members.

I was born in Brisbane and lived the early part of my childhood in Brisbane. I then spent several years as a kid in Mount Isa before coming back to Brisbane. Ostensibly, members take great pride in where they come from. I take great pride in being a Brisbanite. Before I get down to some of the detail in the bill that I would like to refer to, I remind members, from a Brisbane perspective, of three significant events that have occurred in my lifetime, culminating in the fourth one, which will be no surprise.

It might surprise some members but, growing up as a child in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the first is the implementation of sewerage in Brisbane. The second was in 1982 with the magnificent Commonwealth Games at QEII. We all thought we were so sophisticated when we had, effectively, a skeletal steel structure with papier-mache on the outside as an exoskeleton. When it looked at camera No. 2 and it winked, we thought we had made it as a city. We thought that was big-time, only to have it followed by the little joeys coming out of Matilda. The third big step along the path to what I call true cityhood occurred in 1988 with Expo 88. That was when, for the first time in many of our lives, we got to experience—

Mr Stevens: The chicken dance!

Mr MINNIKIN: I will take the interjection: the chicken dance, which the member for Mermaid Beach knows so well. We were also exposed to a la carte dining. This was the third big evolution in the ongoing drive to fully-fledged cityhood. As per the title of this bill, the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games will indeed, in the next eight years, put Brisbane well and truly on the world stage. This will continue the evolution of this great city. But it is more. We on this side of the chamber have made it very clear that it is of benefit to far more than just the state's capital. There will be an absolute desire to make sure that the benefits of the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games will be spread throughout the entire state. People have heard the Deputy Premier talk about the exciting fund that will be unleashed to make sure that all of Queensland gets its fair share of decent sporting facilities.

I would like to talk about two aspects of the bill: the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games arrangements part as well as the Planning Act amendments in relation to state facilitated development. Going back to the Olympics, I will note some of the key elements that I picked up from reading the bill and the explanatory notes in preparing my brief contribution. First of all, the Queensland government committed to, within 30 days, appoint an independent infrastructure and coordination authority to

conduct a thorough review and map out infrastructure and, most importantly, the transport needs for the Queensland games within 100 days. The bill's amendments to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act will result in, amongst many things, the name of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority changing to the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority. There will be new functions and powers for the authority being added which relate to planning and assessing potential games related infrastructure, including part of the 100-day review. There will be clarification of the interim CEO's powers, functions and delegations.

I also note that an additional two directors will be able to be appointed to the authority's board, up to nine, and that there is a new requirement that the board have at least one regional representative. There is the removal of prescriptive nominal dates in key documents and agreements so that the authority—this is important—has flexibility in preparing and entering into arrangements as well as the removal of an unnecessary requirement for the authority to enter into a memorandum of understanding with games delivery partners. There is also clarification of when the president of the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee may attend the authority's board meetings. Furthermore, the amendments to the BOPGA Act will allow for a board with regional representation to be appointed and ensure the authority will have the necessary powers, functions and delegations.

I can recall in the lead-up many years ago when I was swimming at the Carina pool in 1974 and 1975 there were lanes 7 and 8 and we would be threatened with death if we crossed into those two lanes. Whilst we ran out of puff swimming 100 or 200 metres, there was a gentleman by the name of Steve Holland who was training for the 1,500 metres in Montreal—

Mr Mander: The 'Super Fish'.

Mr MINNIKIN: I take that interjection. As a young—I would hardly call myself an athlete—swimmer, I was absolutely in awe that when you have the opportunity to see a true Olympian training, at a very young age you could see the amount of dedication that Olympians have to have. The least we can do as a state is provide every young girl and young boy with the opportunity to aspire to greatness. There is nothing greater than the ability to strive for success. What I love about the Olympics is it makes things crystal clear in society. There is a gold, a silver and a bronze and then there is try harder in the next four years. That is the way it is. That is why we need to make sure that the talk is over.

I listened carefully to earlier interjections from other speakers who were harping on. They were saying, 'Hold on. You were elected four weeks ago; 100 days is more of a talkfest.' Give us a break. Those opposite had 1,200 days to do something. They have achieved something on that side and are now the opposition; they have indeed achieved their own gold medal and that was the goodwill that was being generated when the announcement was first made. When it was first made there was a buzz. It was the vibe, as the member for Hervey Bay said in his inaugural speech. There was a real buzz going around Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, the regions—everywhere I went. However, due to a complete lack of activity month in, month out and year in, year out what has happened? The pulse, the mood of people, sadly has dived. I am not saying it has dived everywhere, but if you were to go outside of Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast and go into the regions, they generally wonder what is in it for them. That is something that those on that side should be absolutely shameful about.

There was a golden opportunity to start to tap into the marketing essentials, but no, what have they done? That is maybe just one of many reasons why as we come here today for the first real engagement, they are on that side of the chamber. It is funny, here we are now 10 or 11 hours into the day and some of them have not got the memo that they had their time, particularly when they had 1,200 days and what did we get? Doughnuts and absolute zero. Yes, we have requested 100 days to get this back on track, and we will do just that. However, we will not only give certainty to the people of Queensland. Coming from a development background, I say we will give a clear check mark in terms of business confidence, decision-making confidence, that many of those on the other side who have not come from the private sector would fail to grasp. We will get the Olympics back on track and as my colleagues said earlier, we will make this an Olympic Games that will make every single Queensland proud.

In the remaining few minutes of my contribution I would like to talk about another issue dear to my heart and that is in relation to the state facilitated development that is part of this omnibus bill. It did not come as a complete surprise that only a few weeks before we went into the pre-poll and the hurly-burly of the campaign people in my electorate of Chatsworth were outraged about a proposed development at Dianthus Street and New Cleveland Road at Wakerley. We made it very clear with our language for months and months that we know there needs to be more affordable housing and we fully support more affordable housing in every electorate, mine included. What the residents of Wakerley in my electorate of Chatsworth took absolute objection to was the fact that this happened under the cover of darkness—if you want to talk about openness and accountability, here we go. This was something

that was almost like a call-in under the SFD arrangements—and 48 units is completely overcooked. You do not need to be a town planning expert to realise if you have a parcel of land and propose to build 48 units directly opposite Gumdale State School with no consultation whatsoever, from a planning perspective that would be a complete disaster.

Let me be very clear. I had a meeting only a couple of weeks before the election. It was probably attended by just under 100 residents. They were outraged that when they went online to see what the project actually involved it literally was a blank A0 PDF; there was nothing to show for it. It was an absolute travesty and a joke, just a complete smoke and mirrors exercise. How can we give meaningful feedback when all we are seeing is a white sheet of paper? It is an absolute joke. That may be—ding—another reason why as we sit on this side today, those opposite are sitting over there. It was sneaky, mean and tricky. It does not matter whether it be the full scale of developments proposed for Hamilton, Noosa or the Gold Coast; this one was just the tip of the iceberg and it showed a complete lack of accountability and trustworthiness.

On behalf of the people who live in the Wakerley area I am totally supportive of the need for these amendments to pass to give the minister the ability to make a decision one way or the other. I would hope there will still be—and I have had discussions with the local councillor; he, too, believes there needs to be—sensible, affordable housing on that site, but 48 units or thereabouts is totally and absolutely overcooked.

At the end of the day in the overall scheme of things the couple of things I have raised are just two microcosmic examples of the reason why we sat on that side of the chamber and had to reflect every day for nine years when we made mistakes in the past. We paid the price, but here is the memo: so did the members on that side. When we analyse their body language and their tone and after listening to their contributions today, we know that many of them simply have not learnt one single thing. One thing is for sure, we will ensure we do not use the typical, 'You've got six months and one day and then the honeymoon's over, so what have you done?' We are going to prosecute every single day when we get the opportunity to point out to Queenslanders what went wrong and then offer a positive solution. We will not just harp on for the sake of it. We will absolutely prosecute the reason why we are doing what we are going to do. Having had the privilege of being a minister for only four weeks, I love the fact that already we have a leadership team and a leadership group and when they say they are going to do something, they do it.