




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

**PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.44 pm): A great sporting event can leave a legacy that lasts for generations. While this may not be the time of year to acknowledge our neighbours south of the Tweed, there is no doubt that the success of the 2000 games put Sydney firmly on the world map, encouraging many thousands of young people to get into sport and resulting in improved infrastructure from sporting facilities to transport and housing. It is that legacy infrastructure that this government is focused on as we plan for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and it is why I rise tonight to speak on the proposed amendments to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021. These amendments are not just administrative adjustments; they are critical enablers for the successful delivery of the Brisbane 2032 games, identifying the games related transport infrastructure needed and providing for an expedited pathway for delivery.

In March the Crisafulli government released the 2032 Delivery Plan—our plan to deliver a successful games following the directionless approach of those opposite. In addition to providing the much needed direction on games venues and villages, the 2032 Delivery Plan also sets out the transport infrastructure priorities to deliver reliable, efficient, safe and inclusive transport services to the Olympic and Paralympic stakeholders and spectators while meeting the needs of our growing communities before, during and after the games.

The 2032 Delivery Plan accelerates the delivery of major transport projects to expand the reach and capacity of our transport networks, including: the Wave, a seamless transport solution linking heavy rail from Beerwah to Birtinya to a state-of-the-art metro hub that connects to the Sunshine Coast Airport through Mountain Creek and Maroochydore; the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail, which will provide additional tracks, station upgrades and signalling infrastructure to support higher-frequency passenger rail services between Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast—more trains for Gold Coast commuters to and from Brisbane; bus priority corridors in Brisbane, the Redlands and on the Gold Coast; delivering the Coomera Connector stage 1 and committing to deliver subsequent work ahead of 2032, providing an alternative connection between Brisbane and the Gold Coast; and upgrades to the Gateway Motorway and the Bruce Highway to increase capacity, safety and reliability for traffic moving from the New South Wales border all the way to Cairns.

A government member: Are we doing budget replies?

Mr MICKELBERG: No, not yet. The amendments provide the mechanism to ensure these transport initiatives are delivered in time for the games, when the eyes of the world will be on not only the south-east corner of Queensland but also the Fraser Coast, Central Queensland and North Queensland. Come 2032, our transport networks and services will face unprecedented demand as we provide priority movement for athletes and officials across the network to get to competition venues and move vast numbers of ticketed spectators to the many competition venues across the south-east, all while keeping the network moving for normal business and personal travel.

With Olympic competition being held across South-East Queensland and regional centres, we know that many games spectators will be travelling long distances to attend games events and will also want to explore the places they are visiting. The transport projects that support regional connections, such as the Wave and the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project, need to be delivered and operational before 2032. It is not just about having certainty that construction will be completed; time is also required to ensure that the services are fully operational and integrated with the rest of the transport network.

While these legislative provisions are attached to the Olympic Games arrangements act, the transport priorities identified in the 2032 Delivery Plan are not just for the games; they are transport priorities that support our growing cities and regions. These projects are providing more travel options and capacity in our network for residents and businesses. More capacity in our network means reduced travel times so people can get home from work more quickly at the end of a long work day.

Streamlining approval processes for critical transport infrastructure will allow my department, working with the private sector, to deliver these projects on time and on budget while also restoring fiscal discipline and respecting taxpayers' money. We know from engagement with industry that multiple steps for project approval add to cost and time pressures on these major projects. Cost escalations in particular can see projects stall and in some cases be shelved indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the pipeline of infrastructure work forecast in Queensland has grown by 13 per cent since 2023 according to the QMCA. Increasing demand for skills and resources from new projects while existing projects stall compounds the problem, but this government is determined to better manage the pipeline of work and these amendments will help us do just that.

The legislative amendments also task the Department of Transport and Main Roads to prepare the games transport and mobility strategy. As the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, I welcome this change. My department is the lead of the games transport program, working with the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee and local governments to develop the operational plans to meet the unique games travel demands. The strategy will build upon the direction and priorities established through the 2032 Delivery Plan and identify the transport outcomes required to underpin a successful games, not just infrastructure upgrades but also improved services and systems and customer information to enable us to get the most out of our networks, to provide more travel options, to better cater for all members of the community and to encourage more sustainable travel behaviour.

It will be important that the games transport and mobility strategy informs the more detailed operational planning that is to occur through the games transport program and in partnership with local governments. The government's 2032 Delivery Plan includes other initiatives that will further enhance the transport network and expand the reach and convenience of services including expanded bus and train fleets, bus priority corridors, accessibility and active travel upgrades, and inclusive wayfinding. Planning activity is underway on many of these initiatives and will accelerate as planning for venues and broader games operations mature.

This planning may identify further transport projects that would support the games and provide ongoing legacy to our communities. These legislative amendments give Queensland the opportunity to ensure that we are able to leverage the games to drive a lasting legacy for the transport network and for the people of Queensland, providing the ability to streamline approval and delivery of critical transport infrastructure.

Ongoing improvements to transport infrastructure and services to meet the needs of our growing state and support games operations will require a commitment from, and engagement with, all three levels of government—and I will continue to advocate for funding from the Commonwealth. Local governments also have a role to play, with local connections to new games venues an important consideration.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Queensland. They are an opportunity to showcase our state to the world, to inspire future generations, and to create a legacy of infrastructure, connectivity and community pride. I support these amendments, which will ensure that the Brisbane 2032 games are remembered not just for their sporting excellence but perhaps, more importantly, for the enduring benefits they will bring to Queensland.