




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.51 pm): I start by once again pointing out that the LNP said there would be no new stadiums. Not once, not twice but countless times the Premier assured Queensland that there would be no new stadiums. However, after their election win they announced that there will be new stadiums built and they will proceed at the expense of vital services for Queenslanders. I repeat: they will proceed at the expense of vital services for Queenslanders.

We all support the Olympics and, as the member for Greenslopes said, we want everyone to get on with it, but I point out that we have already seen infrastructure projects stalled under this government. That includes hospital projects such as the new Queensland Cancer Centre, to be located at the RBWH—a life-saving service—which has been delayed for at least three years. We do not even know if it will eventually proceed. The LNP are undermining support for the Olympics within Queensland because of their health cuts.

My constituents have said a lot about the Olympics, especially when I talk about the halt to the Redcliffe Hospital expansion. I want to read out some social media posts. One states, 'They can spend \$3.8 billion to build Olympic villages but they take away the possibility of improvements to our vital healthcare facilities.' Someone else states that they think health is more important than sport. Another states, 'Typical Liberals, got to pay for the Olympics stuff now.' Someone else says, 'Looks like they may have halted all the hospital works to pay for the new Olympics stadium.'

Government members: Oh!

Mr WHITING: It is Queenslanders who are saying these things so do not blame me. These are Queenslanders who are watching what you have done. Someone states, 'To get the Olympics they need to get people to care; their priorities are all wrong.' Another resident states, 'Well, they needed to cut the health budget so they could afford to build the stadiums.' Another resident states, 'The LNP are going to ruin hospitals, taking more money for their ridiculous Olympics.' I want the Olympics to go ahead, but this is what people are saying.

I end with this point: with the 2024 Paris Olympics we talked about inclusion. In the 2024 Olympics, our able-bodied athletes picked up 53 medals and our Paralympic team picked up 63 medals. Our able-bodied Olympic team comprised 459 athletes. We sent 160 Paralympic athletes and our Paralympians won more than three times as many medals. This strategy is doing absolutely nothing to support all of the Paralympians in their quest.