




Speech By
Donna Kirkland

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MOTION

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (4.26 pm): The games were awarded on 21 July 2021 and it has taken the Crisafulli government to finally deliver on an Olympic plan for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The delivery plan ends over 1,300 days of chaos and crisis. It was informed by over 5,800 public submissions to our expert-led 100-day review and, more importantly, it remains within the \$7.1 billion funding and balances, maximising the use of existing spaces while critically delivering the new venues that are needed.

Whilst I am here as the member for Rockhampton I wish to draw attention to the fact that previously the Olympic Games were not delivering to the regions of Central Queensland. We were the big gap. Nothing was happening in Central Queensland, but now because of the Crisafulli government delivery plan, Rockhampton is hosting the rowing and we are excited.

Rowing has been touted as the sport that put Australia on the map for sport. That is because of a gentleman named Edward Trickett who in 1876 was the first Australian recognised as a world champion in any sport. His achievement inspired the nation and inspired Rockhampton, whose athletes have been rowing since then on Rockhampton's Fitzroy River. Every day our families and our children get out on the course at the crack of dawn with their aspirations of representing the nation in this sport. In fact, we have had several representations as Olympians from the Rockhampton region who grew up rowing on that course.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mrs KIRKLAND: Amazing, isn't it? In fact, over 10,000 people lined the banks of the Fitzroy River rowing course when Mr Trickett challenged his rival back in 1884, so we are no stranger to rowing in the Rockhampton region. In fact, in 2005 we hosted the Australian Masters Rowing Championships just before the Beijing Olympic Games. We are so excited because finally rowing and the Olympics are going to come to the regions, delivering infrastructure projects for a generation. After this it is going to be legacy infrastructure—legacy infrastructure that benefits regional Queensland.

(Time expired)