



Speech By
Donna Kirkland

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Rockhampton, Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Mrs KIRKLAND** (Rockhampton—LNP) (2.51 pm): Today it is very exciting to see the media reports that have erupted around the Olympic and Paralympic Games rowing and canoeing schedule to be held in Rockhampton on the mighty Fitzroy River in 2032.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order, members on my left! That was completely inappropriate. If I had not been getting advice from the Clerk, a number of you would have been warned just then.

Mrs KIRKLAND: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. This gives me the opportunity to—

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you are warned.

Mrs KIRKLAND:—repeat that the Olympic and Paralympic Games rowing and canoeing will be held in Rockhampton. It is disappointing that the Labor Party have come out in opposition to that games decision, with Labor influencer Robert Schwarten weighing in and the member for Gladstone also on the record as being against that games choice. This is against the regions. It is another demonstration of how Labor have always been against the regions and anything that will lead to economic development and community spirit.

Because the LNP believe in the regions, a robust bid for the Olympic and Paralympic Games rowing and canoeing to be held in Rockhampton was submitted by stakeholders and current elected members at all three levels of government, including: Senator Matt Canavan and the federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry; the member for Keppel, the member for Mirani and myself; and the Mayor of the Rockhampton Regional Council, who is now a part of—wait for it, opposition—the Host Mayors Advisory Group. That groups consists of mayors from across Queensland who advise the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee on regional involvement, planning and legacy outcomes for the games.

The Crisafulli LNP government is getting on with delivering the games. We have, in fact, activated our legacy advisory group, which includes multiple stakeholder groups from across the region. Rockhampton will proudly host the Olympic and Paralympic rowing on the Fitzroy River, as outlined in the 2032 Delivery Plan, and any reports to the contrary are nonsense. Representatives of the International Canoe Federation were in Rockhampton this year and, along with all other representatives, are excited and energetic about the games rowing and canoeing events to be held in Rockhampton.

We have been rowing on the Fitzroy River since the 1800s. We have hosted state events and international rowing teams and now we will showcase this world-class freshwater rowing course to the world. Along with all of my Central Queensland colleagues, including the member for Keppel and the member for Mirani, I celebrate this opportunity to showcase these Olympic and Paralympic events in

Rockhampton with a fantastic display of rowing and canoeing on the Fitzroy River. At the same time we will deliver, because the LNP government is a government that delivers incredible economic stimulus and legacy infrastructure.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned.

Mrs KIRKLAND: We are just over six years away from this incredible event and already the City of Rockhampton is excited and our children are getting excited. It has activated people right across Central Queensland. Our businesses are getting prepared as the preparations start now. We do not dillydally—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you can join the warning list.

Mrs Kirkland:—as those opposite did for over 1,000 days, trying to make up their minds about what they were going to do. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job of delivering a remarkable event that will showcase our region to the world and leave a lasting legacy for growth. This indeed is the games for all of Queensland, and those opposite are jealous because they did not think of it.