




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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MOTION

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.35 pm): That was some great advice from the member for Cairns: just get on with it. This motion speaks volumes about what is happening with the LNP in Queensland—grandstanding about something that it knows is important to Queensland—and my advice to it is: just get on with it. The people of regional Queensland are seeing what is happening down here in South-East Queensland. The people of regional Queensland want to see some of this legacy delivered for them. I am glad that when the plan came out there was something for regional Queensland, but I want to talk about the rowing in Rockhampton.

I made comment on 4CC in the Gladstone region about Rockhampton getting the rowing on the Fitzroy River. I said that I was happy for Rockhampton to get that infrastructure and the works that will come, but I say to the member for Rockhampton: I am not confident that it will ever happen in Rockhampton. The member for Kawana has made a commitment to take it to Rockhampton to appease the people of Rockhampton with a new member in Rockhampton, but what I can see happening is him coming out and saying, 'Oh, no, we've made a mistake. We can't actually host it here, so we're going to have to move it somewhere else. Unfortunately, we tried our hardest to get the rowing in Rockhampton,' knowing all along that it was never going to happen.

One of the big concerns and questions that I and many other people have is: when you build large infrastructure like this in places like Rockhampton, who is going to pay for it after the Olympics have gone? Who is going to pay for this rowing infrastructure and these other assets and maintain them—the power et cetera? I can just see the Rockhampton Regional Council—and I acknowledge that the member for Rockhampton was a councillor of the Rockhampton Regional Council—and Mayor Tony Williams saying, 'We're not going to pay for it.' Who is going to pay for it? Who is going to pay for the infrastructure when it is left behind? You have to maintain these assets. We have seen what happens when the floods come down the Fitzroy River: first the weeds come through and then the logs come through and then everything else comes through. Who is going to pay to fix it when it is broken?

One of the big things I am passionate about is infrastructure legacy, not only for South-East Queensland but for the whole of regional Queensland. When are we going to start to see some of the infrastructure that has been talked about being delivered to regional Queensland so councils can go out and talk to participating countries about where they can practise their sports? Can the swimming squad from New Zealand come over and train in Gladstone? Will there be some facilities so they can train in Bundaberg? These places have been left off the list of infrastructure builds in this plan. All I can say to the LNP is: get on with it. Make sure the people of regional Queensland, particularly Central Queensland, get some funding for infrastructure that they can use into the future.