



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**

**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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### **MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (4.32 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The opposition will be supporting this bill. We do so not because it is perfect but because, on balance, it enhances some areas of law and regulation which will support major sports facilities and major events into the future. At its core, the bill seeks to modernise how major stadiums are managed, strengthen consumer protections around ticket reselling—which we know is vitally important—and improve the governance framework for Stadiums Queensland. Those are sensible objectives and they are objectives which Queensland Labor has consistently supported. Where the bill succeeds, it does so by responding to industry realities, community feedback and issues raised through the committee process. Where questions remain, it is incumbent on the LNP government to answer them through clear guidance and disciplined implementation.

The bill amends three key legislative frameworks: the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the Major Events Act 2014 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014. The government says these changes will support an effective and efficient regulatory regime and deliver best practice governance for Stadiums Queensland. The opposition agrees with that direction, but we will also be watching very closely to ensure that these reforms are delivered in a way that protects communities, consumers and public confidence.

Queensland prides itself on having world-class venues—from Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane to People First Stadium at Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium at Robina. These are not just entertainment assets; they are publicly owned facilities that carry economic, social and community responsibilities with them. They drive jobs, tourism and local business activities, but they also sit in real neighbourhoods alongside real residents. That is why getting the regulatory settings right matters to those people. The challenge for government, and the test for this bill, is whether it can modernise the system while maintaining proper safeguards for fans, neighbours and taxpayers.

Let me turn to the amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act, particularly those dealing with concerts, event finish times and noise regulation. The opposition acknowledges the reality of the modern live music and events market. Rigid and inconsistent curfews have, in practice, made Queensland less competitive in securing major touring acts. Removing liquor-licensing constraints that have effectively forced some concerts to finish by 10 pm is a sensible step, particularly where it creates consistency across Stadiums Queensland venues in South-East Queensland.

However, support for later finishes must never be read as indifference to community impact. The bill attempts to strike that balance by deeming the general environmental duty to be met where prescribed, evidence-based noise conditions are complied with. That framework can work, but only if compliance responsibilities are clear and enforcement is credible. The City of Gold Coast has raised legitimate practical questions about this: who is the responsible authority for noise compliance, and how will events be managed when they extend onto adjacent council owned land?

These are not academic concerns; they go directly to accountability. Our position is straightforward. The government must provide unambiguous guidance so that promoters, councils and residents around stadiums all know who is responsible and how issues will be addressed at that time. Ambiguity benefits no-one, especially not the local community around the stadiums.

Ticket scalping remains one of the most visible and frustrating failures in the events ecosystem. When tickets disappear in seconds and reappear at grossly inflated prices, it is ordinary Queenslanders who lose out. The opposition supports the bill's move to increase penalties for unlawful ticket reselling and to focus enforcement on those who profit from this behaviour. We also support the removal of the offence for purchasing tickets above 10 per cent of face value. Consumers are overwhelmingly victims in this space, not perpetrators, and the law should reflect that reality. Encouraging reporting rather than discouraging it is the right policy choice. Labor has consistently advocated for stronger consumer protections in the ticketing market, and we will always stand up for Queenslanders who just want a fair go, particularly when it comes to ticketing. Our support for these reforms is grounded in that principle, and it must be reflected in how the laws are implemented.

Consumer protection must be the No. 1 priority. These laws will only succeed if they are administered in a way that actively protects Queenslanders from exploitation rather than shifting risk or responsibility onto fans. Enforcement strategies, compliance resources and cooperation with ticketing platforms must be designed first and foremost to stop those predatory practices before they occur, not simply to respond after harm has already been done to locals.

Industry stakeholders, including Live Performance Australia, have been clear about the damage scalping does to trust and accessibility. Stadiums Queensland has also welcomed greater consistency. The opposition agrees that enforcement should target organised, often offshore, operators using bots and bulk-purchasing tactics, not fans who just want to take their family to a game of footy or a concert. Proposals raised by the Ticket Brokers Association, including licensing models and exemptions, warrant further consideration as part of this bill, but only against a clear test: do they strengthen consumer protection, transparency and enforcement later on? Convenience for resellers cannot come at the expense of fairness for fans of footy games and concerts.

The bill's governance reforms for Stadiums Queensland, particularly the removal of at-will termination of board members, are welcome. Stable, skills-based boards are essential for managing assets of this scale and public importance. That said, the opposition cannot ignore the broader context. It is notable that the government is embracing stability and independence in this statutory body while pursuing greater executive discretion elsewhere. This was seen with the recent amendments to the Forensic Science Queensland Act 2024, removing the independent status of Forensic Science Queensland and giving the Attorney-General the power to appoint and terminate the director of Forensic Science Queensland at will.

Good governance principles should apply consistently across government. If stability builds confidence and performance here, it should do so everywhere. With greater board stability comes greater responsibility, greater transparency and also engagement with communities and a clear communication about major commercial and strategic decisions that are being made. We expect that standard to be met in Queensland.

The inclusion of drones in unauthorised advertising provisions is a practical and overdue update. Event ambush marketing undermines legitimate commercial partnerships that help fund these major events and keep ticket prices in check and affordable for families. This is a sensible modernisation. Similarly, the technical amendments to the Major Events Act allowing staged activation of provisions for complex multiday events reflect the operational reality faced by police, councils and the organisers of those events. These are pragmatic changes and the opposition supports them.

Our support for this bill is not a blank cheque. We will be watching the implementation of these closely, particularly clear guidance on responsibility at the Gold Coast venues. The government should publish unambiguous guidance on which entity—state or council—has the lead responsibility for noise compliance and event coordination, especially where events involve adjacent council land. That clarity will prevent duplication and help residents know whom to call when any issues arise.

I turn to enforcement against unlawful reselling. The penalty settings matter, but they only deter if they are used. We expect a dedicated compliance effort including intelligence-led monitoring and cooperation with platforms to target organised resellers, particularly those operating offshore or using bots to bypass legitimate purchasing limits. Also, extended finish times must be matched by practical mitigation, transport planning, crowd dispersal of people out of the stadiums and transparent noise management. Residents have a right to quiet enjoyment. Promoters have a right to run world-class shows. This bill can deliver both if operational detail is done well.

Board governance that builds trust is important. With greater stability at Stadiums Queensland comes a greater responsibility to communicate about strategy, about community impact and about the commercial rationale for major decisions being made. Transparency builds legitimacy. The opposition, as I said, supports this bill because it moves Queensland in the right direction towards modern, practical regulation that supports major events while also recognising community and consumer interests. However, legislation is only as good as its delivery. Where councils and industry have raised legitimate concerns, the government must now provide that clarity, coordination and enforcement. Queenslanders deserve vibrant venues, those world-class events and a ticketing system that is fair to all. This bill can help deliver that outcome if the government gets those details right.

I am aware also—as we heard today before the second reading of his bill—of amendments which have been circulated by the Minister for Sport. I must say, it is certainly disappointing that the minister did not circulate these earlier and they have not gone through a committee process. This is just another example of the LNP government trying to do things in secret. The deputy leader and the shadow minister for transport will have more to say about that later this evening. As I said before, the opposition supports this bill and I, like many Queenslanders, look forward to continuing to watch events at major stadiums here in Queensland, particularly the Brisbane Broncos at Suncorp Stadium, in 2026. Go the mighty Broncos!