




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Badminton and Table Tennis

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.15 pm): Tonight I rise to highlight the urgent need for dedicated and necessary badminton and table tennis facilities for the people of my electorate. Stretton is home to one of Queensland's most vibrant and fastest growing multicultural communities. Many of our residents come from regions where badminton and table tennis are national sports, and their passion and ability is reflected in their extraordinary growth locally. Participation in badminton across Queensland has grown by 86 per cent over the past five years, while table tennis participation has grown by 69 per cent. This represents an extraordinary growth in two core Olympic sports.

Every week I see young people in my electorate play, train and compete in these sports, often in school halls and makeshift venues that fall well short of what is required. In June this year I wrote to the Minister for Sport to advocate for a dedicated facility with a focus on badminton and table tennis. My letter was supported by detailed research and letters of support from both the Queensland Badminton Association and Table Tennis Queensland. I thank the minister for his response, which pointed to the government's \$250 million Games On! program; however, sadly, the criteria for that program are still under development and at present there are no infrastructure programs open to support the planning or construction of a new facility. The minister has certainly been quick to tell sporting organisations all over Queensland that he is open to any and all ideas, but it has been light on detail and we are less than seven years out from Brisbane 2032.

This is not just about sport; it is also about equity, recognition and opportunity. Our multicultural community in Stretton is driving the growth of badminton and table tennis in Queensland. An investment in high-growth sports such as these must be part of our vision for 2032—not just more of the same for already well-funded sports.

The urgency has only increased following the 100-day review into Brisbane 2032. In a question on notice I asked where badminton and table tennis will now be staged, given that the original bid process in 2021 specified where they would be held; however, the 100-day review did not provide a location for these core Olympic sports and effectively buck-passed the responsibility to the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee—even though the organising committee is not responsible for funding or building infrastructure. That is the responsibility of the state government.

It is unacceptable that seven years out these sports still have no dedicated location—both for our games planning and for the thousands of Queenslanders who play these sports every week and hope to achieve greatness in Brisbane, Queensland in 2032. I again call on the government to work with Queensland Badminton, Table Tennis Queensland and local stakeholders to support their vision and ensure badminton and table tennis receive the dedicated funding and certainty they deserve so that we can achieve gold in 2032.