



Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (6.11 pm): I rise today in strong support of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The core objective of this bill is to deliver an effective and efficient regulatory regime for our state's major assets, ensuring they provide maximum social and economic benefits for all Queenslanders. As a government, we are committed to statutory body best practice which ensures our institutions operate with the governance, accountability and commercial agility required in a modern economy. This bill provides a series of pragmatic amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 that unlock the full potential of our state.

Firstly, we are lifting the bureaucratic handbrake on our regional venues. By overriding liquor licensing restrictions and local law noise constraints, we are unlocking the untapped potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast. This is not only a local issue; it is also a matter of economic productivity for our whole state. By making our regional venues competitive with Brisbane, we strengthen Queensland's reputation as a premier destination for high-profile touring artists and international events. More events across multiple cities means more visitors, more tourism and more economic activity flowing through our hospitality, transport and retail sectors. It also complements the work we are doing under Destination 2045 to secure Queensland's place as the events capital. It ensures Queenslanders everywhere have better access to world-class cultural and sporting events, promoting the social and cultural life of the whole state. This bill demonstrates the Crisafulli LNP government's unwavering commitment to streamlining major events delivered by modernising legislation, ensuring it is fit for purpose. By making our venues competitive, we maximise opportunities for all of Queensland, not just one city.

The Crisafulli LNP government is securing Queensland's reputation as the events capital of the country, and this legislation complements the work being done through Destination 2045. This bill helps remove barriers that have limited our major venues. It enables us to meet community expectations and ensures Queensland's reputation is maintained. On the road to the 2032 games, we want to showcase Queensland as the home of major events in Australia, and this bill makes sure that we will remove the red tape created by the former Labor government, in the process making Queensland a world-class destination for entertainment, too.

Secondly, this bill delivers a strike for market integrity. We are significantly increasing the maximum penalties for unlawful ticket reselling or ticket scalping. By raising these fines to over \$113,000 for corporations, we are sending a clear message that predatory behaviour has no place in our market. The Crisafulli government is ensuring access to tickets is more equitable and that fans are protected from those who seek to profit by distorting the market.

Thirdly, the Crisafulli LNP government is modernising our oversight through institutional accountability. The contemporary board arrangements for Stadiums Queensland will ensure strong oversight while giving operators the commercial agility to respond efficiently to new opportunities. We are also ensuring our laws keep pace with modern technology by including drones under ambush

marketing provisions, safeguarding the commercial value that sponsors and organisers bring to our state. This bill removes outdated restrictions and introduces practical, modern measures that ensure Queensland's stadiums remain competitive, vibrant and trusted. It positions the state as a leader in hosting major events, enriching cultural life, supporting local jobs and boosting tourism across Queensland.

With the upcoming 2032 Olympic Games and events being held in regional locations, this will provide lasting legacies to our regional communities. This will also boost our economies and provide employment opportunities prior, during and after the Olympic Games. Queensland is uniquely positioned to attract significant sporting events in the lead-up to and following the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Events in our communities showcase our lifestyle and culture.

My electorate of Maryborough—to be known as Olympic-borough during the games—is continuing to buzz with excitement that we have been chosen to host the archery events for the 2032 Olympic Games. The archery communities and businesses within Maryborough have already noticed a surge of interest in archery. One of our archery groups has been chosen to host the 2028 world titles in Olympic-borough. This will bring around 700 competitors, their support teams, family, friends and tourists. It will be fantastic for Maryborough, Hervey Bay, the Fraser Coast and the whole Wide Bay. This event will be the forerunner for the 2032 Olympic archery event being held in Olympic-borough.

This bill removes outdated, complex restrictions and replaces them with practical, modern measures. It ensures Queensland remains competitive, vibrant and trusted by the global events industry. By using clear, unambiguous language in our regulatory framework, we improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our major event declarations, ensuring we continue to attract and retain the very best contact for Queenslanders. This bill is just another example of how the Crisafulli LNP government is committed to streamlining major events delivery by modernising legislation and ensuring it is fit for purpose.

I would like to thank our government for including regional Queensland in the 2032 Olympic journey. I thank the honourable minister, Tim Mander, the department, the committee and everyone else for their hard work. I have no hesitation in supporting and recommending the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to the House.