



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the bill currently before the House. When I saw the provisions for this sitting week which had this particular bill—the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—declared an urgent bill, I was a bit surprised. This bill has been sitting on the *Notice Paper* since October last year, but all of a sudden come February this year it is declared urgent. If there are a huge number of bills to get through—which on inspection there is not—so be it. That is the prerogative of the government of the day. Then I saw the amendments come through that need to be passed later tonight. Now it is quite clear to me, and it will be to Queenslanders waking up to this tomorrow, why this is an urgent bill.

There are some amendments there that the community and Queenslanders should have had every right to scrutinise and respond to that are going to pass tonight without any consultation, without any scrutiny. I heard a member over there talk about trust—trust in the government. It is actions like these which actively contravene any community's trust. There are going to be huge implications for communities out there.

Notwithstanding what anyone's view is on the Olympics—the venues, the sports and wherever they are going to be—every single one of those events is going to have an impact on a community, and those communities deserve the right to have their say. No. That is not what this government does. These are not insubstantial amendments. There are pages and pages of details, maps and schedules. These are not last-minute amendments. This was always planned. This was always going to go through tonight on the last sitting day after the news is broadcast when no-one is going to be paying attention to the news tomorrow. That is not instilling Queenslanders with trust in what this government does.

I know we are on a timeline for 2032 but that should not abrogate any government's responsibility to consult, to make sure that the legacy that is left is not one of destruction. You can have bright, fancy stadiums and no doubt sell off public land to developers—and what a coincidence that this is the week when we allow property developers to give donations to politicians! A plus B equals C. I think Queenslanders know what C is. They know exactly why an amendment like this is going through without any consultation and without any scrutiny. If anyone over there thinks that moves like this are going to promote trust that the community has in the government, they are living on another planet.

I came in here with a wonderful speech about the substantive bill. I heard the member for Miller say that there are some minor amendments to it. They are minor amendments but they have the potential to have a great impact on events, particularly in South-East Queensland. The provision around extending the time for major events at Carrara and Cbus Stadium from 10 to 10.30 means those venues now have a greater chance to host world-class events, so it will bring them into line with Suncorp Stadium.

We know that Suncorp Stadium has a limit on how many events it can have, so enabling venues like Carrara and Cbus to host more events is great for South-East Queensland and the Gold Coast, and I am here for it. The later those concerts can finish, the greater opportunity we have to support our local music industry. Because we usually have Australian artists supporting big bands and that kind of thing,

the fact is that we will get to see more Australian bands supporting the bigger ones. We have had quite a few big concerts at Carrara, but having a later finishing time means we can have more support acts. I commend what the Minns government did in New South Wales by making it a requirement to have Australian bands as the support act. We had the Australian music awards. Amyl and the Sniffers got their start—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms McMAHON:—thank you—by being a support act for Pearl Jam, I think it was, on a tour. Last weekend I went to Laneway and saw Team Jesus and the Jean Teasers. They were originally a support act for Green Day. I know that 30 minutes sounds quite minor, but what that will do for young up-and-coming Australian bands is great.

In line with that, making changes to ticket-scalping laws makes it more competitive for us to get some of those bigger concerts, because it is important to make sure that artists get the money. I know that people always complain about the cost of concerts, but we live in a digital world now. Artists big and small are not getting paid for people buying their albums anymore. They get paid for concert tickets, which is great if you are a live-music fan because it means artists are touring more often. If there is going to be lost revenue because of ticket scalping or ambush advertising, if those performers and touring companies do not have the protection of legislation like this then these are reasons Queensland can be bypassed.

In 2024 we went out to the community and asked, 'What are some changes we can make to stadiums?' Community consultation specifically did make reference to removing the differences between Suncorp Stadium and those two Gold Coast stadiums. Hopefully, with the changes to the events framework in the substantive bill we will see more live music here in South-East Queensland. That is a win for our tourism operators. It is also, thankfully, a win for our live-music scene here in Australia. I look forward to hopefully seeing the next Amyl and the Sniffers as a support act for a band at Cbus.

This quite minor but important bill, particularly for the Gold Coast and its surrounding communities, is being completely overshadowed by amendments that affect a lot of areas throughout Queensland, not just Victoria Park. I note the local members here who are affected by it. You have an amendment that is going to overrule a lot of planning conditions. You have amendments that say 'no compensation is required when we take this land', and that is something the community should have known about rather than it being passed at nine o'clock on a Thursday night.