



Speech By  
**Rebecca Young**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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

 **Mrs YOUNG** (Redlands—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to support the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 and to place on the record what this legislation will mean not only for Queensland but also for the people I represent in Redlands, which is a community emerging as a key contributor to our Olympic and Paralympic future. This bill is about readiness. It ensures Queensland is competitive, well governed and positioned to deliver lasting benefits before, during and long after the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The amendments will modernise the framework governing our major sports and entertainment venues, particularly those managed by Stadiums Queensland. They will strengthen governance, improve commercial protections and ensure our venues can attract and deliver world-class events in an increasingly competitive global market. In practical terms, this legislation supports better venue operations, modern governance and stronger protections for consumers. It sends a clear message: Queensland is ready to host major events and maximise the economic return for local communities.

While much of the public conversation focuses on venues in Brisbane, regional communities such as Redlands are central to this story. Redlands is no longer watching the games take shape; we are helping to deliver them. I am incredibly proud that the Redland Whitewater Centre within the Birkdale Community Precinct has been confirmed as an Olympic standard venue for Brisbane 2032. Jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, this will be a thriving destination well before the games begin and one of Queensland's most exciting legacy projects.

Expressions of interest for the design consultant are already open and momentum is building. Just last week, artist impressions of the centre were showcased at an International Olympic Committee function in Milan, placing Redlands on the global stage. The Redland Whitewater Centre will become Australia's northern hub for world-class whitewater events and training, hosting Olympic and Paralympic slalom competitions while delivering year-around community use. This is not a facility built for a single moment in time. It will have a lasting legacy and will be designed to serve the community for generations.

Located within the Redland City Council's Birkdale Community Precinct, beside a protected conservation area, the project balances environmental responsibility with world-class infrastructure—exactly the approach Queensland needs as we plan for the future. For Redlanders, the benefits are real and long-term. Economically, the centre will drive tourism, support jobs and strengthen local businesses, contributing to the billions in tourism and trade expected from the games legacy. Socially, it will deliver recreational and health benefits for people of all abilities—from elite athletes to families enjoying kayaking, tubing and water play. This will be a venue locals use every week, not just once every four years.

Critically, it will also support emergency services training, strengthening whitewater rescue capability for firefighters, SES and first responders—a practical investment in community safety and disaster resilience. Importantly, the project strengthens the case for key infrastructure upgrades across the Redlands coast including improved transport connections such as the dedicated bus corridor to Capalaba, ensuring the benefits of the games extend well beyond the event itself.

This bill matters because it provides the certainty and flexibility required to support venues like the Redland Whitewater Centre—venues that will host major international events before, during and after 2032. Recently I met with Kim Crane, CEO of Paddle Australia, to discuss a significant pre-2032 opportunity—the 2030 World Paddle Games. This inaugural event is expected to attract more than 10,000 competitors from over 80 countries, delivering major economic and tourist benefits while placing Queensland, and the Redlands, firmly on the international stage. Events like this align with Queensland’s focus on active lifestyle, wellness and nature-based tourism. They elevate ecotourism, strengthen global connections and showcase our region to the world—exactly the outcomes this legislation is designed to support.

The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill ensures our venues are competitive, well governed and protected from practices that undermine consumers and communities. More than that, it ensures communities like Redlands are not spectators in this historic moment—we are participants. This bill turns infrastructure into opportunity, it turns global attention into local benefit and it helps ensure Brisbane 2032 leaves a legacy that reaches beyond stadium walls and into the lives of everyday Queenslanders. For Redlanders—our business, emergency services, families, athletes and young people—this legislation supports a future that is active, connected, resilient and globally recognised.