



Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**


**MEMBER FOR TRAEGER**

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**MOTION**

**Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan**

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (4.48 pm): I do not really have a problem with the delivery plan, although I have not really educated myself too much on it, because I disagree with the whole premise of the Olympics. The KAP has had a strong position on this from the start. I listened quite intently to the member for Townsville's contribution saying everyone supports it. Not everyone does. I frequent Townsville quite often. I have many friends there. A lot of people in Brisbane do not support the Olympic Games. I am glad that the member for Greenslopes did not say we won the Olympics. You do not win it when no-one else applies for it.

I am yet to meet anyone from the Gold Coast who says how wonderful the Commonwealth Games was and how the economy boomed as a result of it. You do get infrastructure and, of course, infrastructure is fantastic. I get that the government owns the budget, but in this parliament collectively we have the responsibility to ask how we navigate this. Do we have a problem in Queensland now? Do we have underfunding in hospitals, roads, schools and all sorts of other areas? We certainly do in North Queensland. We need to ask: if that is a problem, what is the best way to address it? How do we fund it? How do we pay for it? Are we saying that the best way to address that is by having an entertainment event or a sports event in 2032 into which we sink all of our money?

There is no magic pudding here. We are going to go into debt for this. If you are going to spend money on it, you have to pull it from something else. There will be a counterpoint here. The Charters Towers Hospital is 100 years old and they are looking for a new one. People are already saying, 'Nothing is going to be built out here.' It will be very hard for the next five to 10 years, or at least until the Olympics is done. People go on about the Bruce Highway, and it will be great if the money does hit the road there.

The other day an ABC interviewer asked, 'What about the regions?' I said, 'Define "regions".' The interviewer said, 'Toowoomba?' I said, 'Exactly!' That is not what I mean when I talk about regions. What about Quilpie, Urundangi, Mount Isa and the Peninsula Developmental Road? Let's see how the funding to finish the PDR goes over the next five years. The Flinders Highway is a mess at the moment; the Port of Townsville is operating under capacity, which is embarrassing; the rail line from Mount Isa to Townsville is an embarrassment; and four mines have closed in the past six months, but we are talking about hosting the Olympics and having a party. Do members know what the Romans did before Rome fell? They built a colosseum so that they could have more parties and distract people. We are building more sports stadiums than social infrastructure. In the industrial areas where we live, we desperately need to reinvigorate infrastructure right now to make more money so that you can buy things in the future. We cannot do that if you spend our money now on all of this fun stuff.