




Speech By
Hon. Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (4.32 pm): I think the Deputy Premier is having some regrets about all of the things he has now promised to deliver for McConnell, because we just saw the ultimate NIMBY—'not in McConnell's backyard'. I think we have our answer on whether those opposite will be supporting this motion, and it will be a no.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is not what I said. I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr O'CONNOR: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. I am proud to rise in support of our 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games delivery plan—a plan which recognises the role the Gold Coast can play and one that sets our state on a clear path to 2032 and beyond. Our 2032 Delivery Plan has put the games back on track. After over 1,300 days of chaos, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver what is needed for our state's future. There is investment in transport and infrastructure, tourism and grassroots sporting facilities.

After the Gold Coast was ignored by the former government's games plan—if you can call it that; I do not think 'a plan' is what anyone would refer to it as—we are delivering. In my electorate, the Gold Coast Hockey Centre in Labrador has been confirmed to host the hockey competition. Again, that is a real legacy—in stark contrast to a plan by the former government for a temporary facility at Ballymore. This venue will be upgraded to Olympic standard, providing a world-class home for a sport that already has deep roots in our Labrador community. This is not just a win for elite athletes; it will be a boost for our juniors, for our volunteers and for all of the local Gold Coast hockey clubs that share in this facility and keep the sport alive every weekend.

The plan delivers so much more for our city, though. We are set to host a wide range of Olympic events including the triathlon and marathon swimming in our iconic Broadwater Parklands. We will benefit from a new Gold Coast Arena in the middle of Southport, upgrades to the convention centre and major transport investments including the Brisbane to Gold Coast faster rail and the next stages of the Coomera Connector. Importantly, one of the three major Olympic athletes villages will be built on the Gold Coast, accommodating thousands during the games but transitioning to permanent housing to deliver a legacy for our city as we deal with a growing population. Our community will also share in the \$250 million Games On! initiative, delivering upgrades for grassroots sporting clubs and facilities across Queensland, including the Labrador Tigers, which will be supported to build a new undercover viewing area.

As the Premier has rightly said, this is a plan that builds for Queensland's future and ensures that the Gold Coast and our entire state are ready not just to host the world in 2032 but also to thrive in the decades that follow. These truly will be the Queensland games, and the Gold Coast is ready to deliver

its share. I commend this plan for its focus, its legacy and its vision for the future, and I would urge those opposite to support our simple motion. People are sick of the politics. They are sick of the fighting. We are debating this because we do not know the opposition's position. Let us get on with the job.

(Time expired)