




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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**PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.41 pm): I rise today to express deep concern over a change to the organising committee for the Olympic Games board that is contained in an obscure clause in this broad-ranging legislation.

The government has decided to repeal the requirement that half of the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee board directors be women and that at least one director be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. It is 2025. We are here in Queensland. This is a deliberate step backwards. The government is scrapping the requirement that half the board be women and at least one member be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander—why? Because apparently diversity is too inconvenient for David Crisafulli and his government. They claim it is about efficiency and flexibility, but let's be honest: that is just a complete smokescreen. Will this be another opportunity for the LNP to appoint more of their mates to government boards? Is this about making space for the same old powerbrokers, the same old insiders and shutting the door on Queenslanders who just do not look like them?

This kind of decision is getting eerily similar to Trump issuing orders to cut diversity, equity and inclusion programs in the public and private sectors. This is the kind of backwards, divisive politics we expect from Trump's America, not a modern, forward-looking Queensland preparing to host the world. Critics, including Renee Carr of Fair Agenda and Professor Watego of QUT's Carumba Institute, have rightly pointed out that this move reverses important strides in recognising women's contributions to sport and leadership. Moreover, Professor Watego has pointed out that the Sydney Olympics successfully operated with a board that included Indigenous representation, demonstrating that diversity and efficiency are not mutually exclusive. Repealing these quotas is not just a quiet bureaucratic change to streamline anything; it is a loud, shameful signal to every woman in Queensland and every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander that this government does not believe you belong at the table. How do you host a world-class Olympics in a state as proudly diverse as Queensland while gutting the very commitments that would help make this event reflect who we are?

The Premier has said that the Olympics should 'inspire a generation'. What inspiration are we offering when we tell that generation, 'You will only be welcome here if you already have power'? Diversity is not a handbrake; it is a strength. A diverse board is not a burden; it is a necessity if we want decisions that reflect our full community and not just the interests of a privileged few for convenience. This decision is not just wrong; it is cowardly. It is a betrayal of the very values we should be lifting up on the road to Brisbane 2032: fairness, equality and unity.

If you think stripping women and Indigenous Queenslanders off the Olympic stage is going to go unnoticed, then think again. We will not let this go quietly because it is not just bad policy; it is a national embarrassment.