



Speech By  
**Terry James**

**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The primary objective of this bill is to support an effective and efficient regulatory regime for major events and major sports facilities, ensuring they continue to deliver social and economic benefits for Queensland. It also aims to provide statutory body best practice in governance, accountability and commercial agility.

Mulgrave is a community passionate about sport. It is especially rewarding to see so many families and children making use of our regional sporting facilities each week. While Mulgrave boasts outstanding sports infrastructure, it is clear these facilities must be expanded to keep pace with our growing population. This will ensure that our aspiring athletes are well prepared for the opportunities presented by the 2032 Olympics. Another key interest for Mulgrave residents is attending major entertainment shows and concerts. Often this requires travelling to larger centres to see artists who are unable to visit every region in Queensland. When this occurs, our community members frequent major stadiums in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast. The amendments in this bill are designed to provide these venues with greater flexibility and to enhance protections for event goers from unlawful ticket sellers.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2021 established Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for managing, operating, developing and promoting major sports facilities in Queensland. These facilities are capable of hosting national and international sporting, recreational, entertainment and special events. The Major Events Act 2014 provides a flexible legislative framework for various major events, ensuring the safety of visitors and spectators and protecting the rights of event organisers and sponsors. The bill seeks to remove liquor licensing restrictions that currently require concerts at major sports facilities to finish by 10 pm. The new standard will allow events to conclude at 10.30 pm, aligning with industry norms. This change is expected to attract more concerts to the Gold Coast, especially to Carrara Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium, and foster commercial parity with Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane.

The bill proposes to increase penalties for unlawful ticket reselling—scalping. It will also remove the offence for buyers who purchase tickets at more than 10 per cent above the original price, focusing enforcement on the sellers and deterring unlawful reselling. The definition of ‘aircraft’ will be updated to explicitly include drones, clarifying that unauthorised aerial advertising is prohibited during declared special events at major sports facilities.

The bill aims to create a more fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for managing major events, improving governance, accountability and commercial agility. This includes changes related to the appointment, termination, resignation and vacancy of Stadiums Queensland board directors. The bill provides a streamlined pathway for the delivery of venues, villages and transport infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by limiting review rights and creating a streamlined 2032 corporation board for efficient decision-making. The bill introduces requirements for the Games

Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority to share information with the relevant department and gives the Queensland government observer status at corporation board and committee meetings to maintain oversight.

The bill has been developed in consultation with a range of external stakeholders including Stadiums Queensland, the Australian Football League—operators of Carrara Stadium and People First Stadium—the City of Gold Coast and several government departments such as the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation in the Department of Justice and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation. Community consultation on regulating special events at Carrara Stadium, People First Stadium and Robina Stadium/Cbus Super Stadium in a manner similar to Suncorp Stadium was conducted in 2024.

These changes will bring Queensland into line with other states such as New South Wales and Victoria which also have legislation regulating major events, sporting facilities and unlawful ticket selling. The proposed amendments to maximum penalties for ticket scalping are intended to align Queensland with these other jurisdictions.

In closing, I reiterate that stadium events are extremely popular for young people and families across Queensland. The proposed changes will better protect them from illegal scalpers and offer greater flexibility regarding event timing. I commend the bill to the House.