




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.19 am): There are 2,718 days until the games of the 35th Olympiad will be staged in Queensland, and I cannot think of a more exciting time to live in this great state. One of our priorities since we formed government is to clean up Labor's Olympic mess. It was given a 1,000-day head start on any other place that has been announced for the Olympics and it squandered it, and that squandering led to a plummeting of public sentiment about the games—a sentiment that we need to change. The pinnacle of its dysfunction was the Gabba redevelopment which it had initially valued at \$1 billion. At the estimates hearing when the Auditor-General was asked what the business case was for that \$1 billion, he said, 'I think it was a press statement.' Not long after a reassessment was done and it was \$2.7 billion and then when Graham Quirk did his 60-day review that figure went to \$3 billion.

Rather than concentrating on the important parts of providing the right infrastructure for us, the then Labor ministers—which included the now opposition leader, the deputy leader and the shadow treasurer—were more focused on the glitz and glamour than the substance of providing the right infrastructure for the Olympics. The next step after the proposed Gabba redevelopment was that the East Brisbane State School, the mighty Brisbane Lions and Queensland Cricket would all be displaced. The latter two were banished to the RNA and then told to pay for their own refurbishment of that venue. It was a complete and utter joke which led to the demise of then premier Palaszczuk and the now opposition leader becoming the premier. His first course of action was to distance himself from every decision that he made as the infrastructure minister for the Olympics and his great legacy was to announce that the Olympic stadium would be at QSAC—an absolutely laughable proposition.

What have we done since we have been in government to clean up this mess? We have appointed the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority to take politics off the podium. Let us let the experts make the decisions, not politicians. We have also announced a \$250 million Games On! community sports infrastructure program so that people right around this state can point to these sets of lights, this clubhouse and this pool and say that they have those because of the Olympics. And we are thinking about the athletes. This week we introduced legislation to free our athletes from bureaucracy and transition the QAS to a statutory body—less red tape, more attention on the athletes. The Crisafulli government will deliver the games that Queenslanders deserve.