




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

MAJOR SPORT FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.38 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Major Events Act 2014, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 [1102](#).

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [1103](#).

Tabled paper: Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [1104](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill will support a streamlined contemporary regulatory regime for major events and major sports facilities and makes Queensland a more attractive destination for concerts and other events that provide significant social, cultural and economic benefits for the state.

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This bill represents yet another demonstration of the forward-thinking, outcomes focused approach of the LNP government. It is a bill that looks to the future of Queensland, to the future of our events industry, to the future of sport and recreation in this state and to the future of our communities, which deserve the very best facilities, the very best opportunities and the very best experiences.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 establishes Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for Queensland's major sports facilities that have the capacity for staging national and international sport, recreational or entertainment events and special events such as concerts.

The Major Events Act 2014 provides powers to facilitate the smooth and safe delivery of declared major events, including the ability to regulate access and movement within event areas, manage advertising and commercial activities to prevent ambush marketing, install temporary infrastructure and streamline approvals by temporarily modifying or suspending certain laws.

The Major Events Act 2014 has been successfully applied to several significant events in Queensland, including the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 and the British and Irish Lions Tour 2025, and is used annually for supercar motor racing events, including the Gold Coast 500 and Townsville 500. With the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games fast approaching, we need to seize every opportunity to attract more events like these to our state. We will act to ensure Queensland is competitive, dynamic and a first choice for promoters, organisers, athletes and artists worldwide.

This bill will limit unnecessary red tape associated with concerts and other major events and help to deliver more events for Queensland communities. Red tape, I must point out, was the trademark of the previous Labor government. Layer upon layer of bureaucracy discouraged investment, suffocated initiative and frustrated communities who simply wanted to see their facilities used to their full potential.

This bill is a clear sign that the LNP government is committed to delivering a legacy that will benefit all Queenslanders for generations to come. We are not just preparing for the games: we are building a more vibrant, dynamic and economically prosperous state. We are providing a clear pathway for growth, innovation and opportunity.

The bill will also deliver statutory body best practice for Stadiums Queensland, providing significant enhancements to its governance, accountability and ability to act with commercial agility. This is not just a matter of good governance; it is a matter of good economic sense. We are unlocking the full potential of these assets, ensuring that every dollar of taxpayer money invested delivers a maximum return for the people of Queensland.

One of the key proposals of the bill is to provide a contemporary regulatory framework for special events such as concerts at major sports facilities that provides for commercial equity across all Stadiums Queensland venues.

The bill will establish a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 that overrides existing legislation as it applies to noise from a special event at a major sports facility, effectively allowing for future regulatory conditions to be set for concerts under the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014.

Subject to those regulatory conditions being set, this framework will allow major sports facilities on the Gold Coast—the People First Stadium at Carrara and the Cbus Super Stadium at Robina—to host concerts until 10:30 pm, which is now the industry standard for concerts and the current concert finishing time at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. The Labor opposition sat on their hands while the Gold Coast, one of our state's most vibrant and dynamic regions, was held back by archaic, inconsistent regulations. They gave Suncorp Stadium a competitive edge but they left the Gold Coast in the dust, as if it were an afterthought. This is a classic example of the previous government's short-sighted, Brisbane-centric approach to governance.

Current provisions for managing noise from venues are provided across various state legislation, local laws and development approvals. This framework is far too complex and results in an uneven playing field in terms of event attraction across the state.

People First Stadium has hosted 10 concerts since its redevelopment in 2011. Comparatively, the Cbus Super Stadium has only hosted one concert since its construction in 2008. This is not a statistic we should be proud of, and it is a direct consequence of the previous Labor government's failure to act. They had years to fix this, to listen to the people of the Gold Coast, but they chose to do nothing. They were content with the status quo, even if it meant our state was missing out on millions of dollars in economic activity and thousands of jobs. They paid lip-service to the idea of a vibrant Gold Coast but their actions, or lack thereof, spoke volumes.

By allowing for future regulatory conditions to be stipulated for these venues, the bill will afford the state the future bargaining power to attract major international artists to the Gold Coast. This will help cement the Gold Coast's reputation as an international touring destination, allowing the region to unlock the significant social, cultural and economic benefits associated with such status. We are giving the Gold Coast the tools it needs to compete on a global scale. We are showing the people of this region that we are on their side and that we are committed to their success. We are not just talking about a vibrant Queensland; we are actively building one.

The bill also establishes a simple, consistent regulatory framework for Stadiums Queensland, stadium operators and hirers, reducing their administrative burden, allowing them to focus on their job of holding world-class sporting and entertainment events, and ultimately allowing them to provide a return on the significant government investment in these facilities.

We are cutting through the layers of bureaucracy that the Labor government left behind, a tangled web of red tape that has hindered progress for far too long. They believed that even more rules and regulations were the answer to every problem, but all it did was create a system that was slow, inefficient and costly. We are taking a different approach. We believe in empowering people, trusting our operators and creating a system that is built for speed and efficiency. This is a clear example of our commitment to a leaner, smarter government—a government that works with the people, not against them.

In 2024 statewide public consultation on the proposal to regulate concerts at Gold Coast stadiums in a similar way to Suncorp Stadium was undertaken, with the public able to provide feedback via a survey and written submissions. The consultation revealed strong support for the proposed changes,

with many respondents highlighting the potential economic and cultural benefits for the region while also acknowledging some localised concerns about noise and traffic impacts.

We listened to the people, something the previous government had a track record of failing to do. When they were in power their consultation was often a hollow exercise, a box-ticking activity to justify a pre-determined outcome. We, on the other hand, genuinely value community feedback and are committed to working with our communities to find solutions that benefit everyone.

It is important to note that, subject to passage of the bill, conditions for the operation of concerts at Gold Coast stadiums that mitigate any impact on local residents will be considered in consultation with the local community and other key stakeholders, such as local government and stadium operators, through an amendment to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014. This is our commitment to a balanced approach: unlocking economic opportunities while ensuring the quality of life for local residents is protected. We are not taking a one-size-fits-all approach and we are not riding roughshod over local concerns.

The second key proposal of the bill is to strengthen deterrents to unlawful ticket reselling by increasing existing maximum penalties where tickets for events at major sports facilities are sold above 10 per cent of the original price to align with penalties in jurisdictions such as New South Wales. This will ensure Queensland remains competitive in attracting and retaining major event content.

The LNP government is standing up for fans and standing against unscrupulous practices that rip them off. We are saying loud and clear that we will not tolerate ticket scalping, a practice that the previous government was woefully inadequate in addressing. This is another example of those opposite being soft on crime. Labor's failure to appropriately address ticket scalping left ordinary fans priced out of the very events they support while profiteers exploit loopholes and weak enforcement. Instead of standing up for fairness and accessibility, Labor policymakers have allowed predatory resellers to hijack the market, creating an environment where only those willing to pay grossly inflated prices can attend. This neglect shows a lack of political will and a disregard for the cultural and social value of live sport and entertainment, reducing them to commodities for opportunists rather than experiences for the broader community.

Ticket security is an important element that is sought by promoters of major events to support brand protection. Increasing penalties for ticket scalping helps to provide better commercial protections for event organisers and their affiliates and decreases reputational risks where ticket-scalping platforms may be perceived as associated with an event and its brand. The value of maximum penalties for ticket scalping under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 is significantly lower than what would apply for the same offence for individuals or bodies corporate in other Australian jurisdictions including New South Wales, which is considered one of Queensland's biggest competitors in attracting sporting and other major events. I am, therefore, seeking to increase maximum penalties for individuals to \$22,531 and for bodies corporate to \$113,492. This will ensure we remain competitive with states such as New South Wales in terms of discouraging ticket scalping. The Labor opposition had plenty of time to fix this but chose to do nothing. They were content to let Queensland fans get fleeced by scalpers. This is not just a regulatory oversight but a failure of leadership. We are cleaning up their mess and putting fans first.

The bill makes corresponding ticket-scalping amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to ensure the penalties remain consistent across the statute book. Queensland is also the only Australian jurisdiction which penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets, so I am proposing to remove this provision so that we can encourage people to report ticket scalping. This is a commonsense change that the previous Labor government failed to implement. The previous government were punishing the victims while the perpetrators got away with it. We are changing that. We are empowering people to do the right thing and report illegal activity without fear of being penalised themselves. This is about trust, and this is about putting the community at the heart of our decision-making.

In order to maximise the operational efficiency and agility of Stadiums Queensland, the bill makes amendments to Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 provisions relating to appointment and termination of the Stadiums Queensland board, including appointment of a deputy chairperson to the board, as well as resignation and vacancy of office. The amendments aim to contemporise the act and bring it into line with current statutory body best practice regarding governance and accountability. This is part of our commitment to good governance and sound financial management. We are ensuring that the people at the helm of Stadiums Queensland are the best in the business and that they have the freedom and the flexibility to make the right decisions for the state.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the definition of 'aircraft' under the ambush-marketing provisions of the act to ensure that relatively new technologies, such as drones which may display unauthorised advertising content at events, are clearly captured and therefore subject to the penalties provided for ambush marketing under the act. This is another example of our forward-thinking approach. We are

proactively looking forward at the impact of emerging technologies and ensuring our laws provide solutions to challenges we may experience. The bill also makes further minor, technical, machinery-in-nature amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to improve clarity and ensure consistency in how provisions of the act are applied to major events, to support accurate and effective regulation making, to remove ambiguity in the operation of key provisions and to make the act easier to navigate and apply.

The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games represents an extraordinary opportunity for all Queenslanders. It is an opportunity we cannot, and will not, squander. This bill is a critical step in our plan to ensure that we capitalise on this once-in-a-generation chance to showcase our state to the world. This bill will ensure that Queensland's regulatory frameworks for major events and major sports facilities deliver commercial agility and statutory body best practice in the lead-up to the games to maximise Queensland's reputation as a host of world-class events.

We are not just building stadiums; we are building a legacy—a legacy of good governance, of economic prosperity and of a vibrant, dynamic Queensland that is ready for the future. We are laying the foundations for a decade of opportunity and prosperity, and we are doing it with a clear vision and a steady hand. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (11.53 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee.