



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Sport, Infrastructure and Grants

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.35 pm): The Crisafulli government is delivering for grassroots community sport in Queensland. After a decade of decline in sporting infrastructure under the previous Labor government, the Crisafulli LNP government has spent the last 10 months reversing that decline and delivering on our commitments to get Queensland sport back on track. The Games On! program is building new and upgraded playing fields and courts, clubhouses, changing rooms and lighting across the state. Over 100 projects have been funded under Games On! With 65 funding agreements now executed, we are getting on with it.

At Rockhampton Sports Precinct, the Queensland government is providing \$47 million to provide a home for netball, including 16 netball courts and a clubhouse. The layout of this site has now been finalised and the works on the site will start next year. While at Rockhampton recently I visited Gracemere Junior Rugby League Club, which is thrilled to receive \$3 million for a new clubhouse. A further \$23½ million has been committed for stage 2 of the Great Barrier Reef Arena upgrade in Mackay, and there will be new artificial turf laid soon at Grange Thistle Soccer Club in the electorate of Stafford. We are also delivering \$620,000 for upgrades at the Bundaberg Netball Association and \$30,000 for Calliope Football Club to upgrade their fields and facilities. I understand that the Cairns Rugby League club is preparing to begin its project. I am hoping that is one post the member for Cairns can share on his Facebook when construction begins!

On top of this, we are making sport more affordable for Queenslanders through the LNP's new \$200 Play On! Sports Vouchers program. The program is being delivered over two rounds to ensure more kids get to play. The response to the first round has been nothing short of amazing—a ringing endorsement of the LNP's new policy. From the cape to Coolangatta, every single eligible child who has applied for a voucher has received one, including many who have a disability. In Toowoomba, we have registered 94 Play On! activity providers so far. Fifty-eight of those support inclusive sports and four have joined the voucher program for the first time. I have been flooded with positive messages from sports clubs and organisations. Shahra McDonnell, the club president of Valleys Diehards Rugby League, said—

A lot of our families wouldn't be able to play sport without Play On! vouchers.

Des Warnock from Sandgate Hawks Football Club said—

By easing the financial pressures for families these vouchers help more young players experience all the great things that come with being part of a local footy club like ours.

Unlike under the Labor Party, who only provided a one-year sugar hit and did not fund the vouchers beyond 30 June this year, Play On! will be funded every year, with an additional \$10 million. We have spent the last 10 months delivering for sport in Queensland and we have many more months to go.