




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Sport

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (10.06 am): It goes without saying that sport is entwined in the very fabric of Queensland life. Our Brisbane Lions women are on track to hand Queensland a clean sweep of all four major AFL and NRL trophies as they host a preliminary final at Brighton Homes Arena against Carlton on Saturday night. I am sure that everybody in the room will join me in wishing them luck.

All of the success that Queensland has seen not only at home but also across the globe with Queensland athletes competing throughout the year proves that Queensland is the home of Australian sport. I know that I have claimed credit for this great sporting success—and some people have mocked me for that—but there is substance to claiming that success because it is a result of the investment that the Crisafulli government is making in grassroots sport.

To maintain our status as the home of Australian sport, we know that we have to invest in the next generation of Queensland athletes and inspire more Queenslanders to get active. That is why we have launched the \$250 million Games On! sport infrastructure program, funding upgrades at our Queensland clubs after a decade of decline under Labor. We are delivering for the Glenmore Bulls Australian Football Club in Rockhampton. Their \$200,000 will be used to upgrade amenities, and female change rooms will be a game changer, especially for all of the girls taking up footy. We are delivering \$1.575 million for the Jabiru Park baseball field in Townsville, which will be used to upgrade lighting and build female change facilities. We are delivering \$1.8 million for the Aspley Hornets Football Club, which will be used to build two women's change rooms, each with showers and toilets, as well as an equipment and education room.

We are committed to getting more young Queenslanders to be more active, and that is why we are investing in community organisations which offer a way to do that. Today I am announcing that 10 Girl Guides and Scouts groups which were promised upgrades under the Games On! program have received their funding. The groups are sharing in \$1.7 million to upgrade facilities and infrastructure, getting more kids outside and active.

We are also making it easier for parents to keep their kids in sport through our new Play On! sports vouchers. Play On! is helping to get more kids involved in sport and providing cost-of-living relief for Queensland families. I am pleased to say that 2,800 Play On! activity providers have signed on across the state. I am also very happy to announce that 1,974 of those clubs offer programs for children with a disability. We are investing in Queensland sport and Queensland families. As a result, we are laying the groundwork to produce the next generation of Queensland champions.

In conclusion, I want to mention that next week another great event will be played in Queensland: the BMW Australian PGA Championship. During the week I had the great privilege to be out at RQ, where I bumped into Cameron Smith from Wantima on the putting green. It was a great opportunity to talk to him. I mentioned a couple of things about his swing from watching TV. I gave him a couple of

tips, which he was very grateful for! Meeting somebody like Cameron Smith is a great thrill for sportspeople like me. I know there are some people who are non-sporting who do not appreciate that. The best way to explain my meeting somebody like Cameron Smith is to equate it with the Deputy Premier last week meeting Princess Anne. I did not bow as low but I still showed great deference. We wish him great luck next week.