




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sport

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.34 pm): What a great year it has been for delivery in the sports sector. We began the year with our delivery plan, putting 1,200 days of chaotic decision-making to bed. Right across the state the vibe has changed. People are happy about the games rather than talking about getting rid of the games. We delivered a delivery plan.

Connected with elite sport is obviously grassroots sports. Our \$250 million Games On! program has been well received right across the state and we have invested in fields, indoor stadiums, dressing rooms and lights. The commitments just keep going and going and they have been very well received. Then there's our Play On! vouchers, the LNP's permanent sports voucher program. The previous government did a sugar hit before the election without any commitment beyond 30 June this year. We have not only locked it in for the next four years but also increased the amount of money. It is a great way to help families and young people afford the cost of being involved with sport.

Returning to elite sport, the previous government had a plan to transition the QAS out of the department and into a statutory body but—wait for this—not this year, but 18 months from the time they made the announcement. We fast-tracked that and it was effective from 1 July. As a result, that organisation is more flexible and has the agility to respond to all of the demands of high-level sport.

I am really proud of the establishment of the Para Sport Unit, which currently has 85 athletes—our aim is to double that over the next couple of years—and Our Project Para Coach Development Program for para athletes. I have put together the Para Sport Reference Panel to help inform us so that, when we make decisions about sports and facilities, we have the para opinion and knowledge to make sure we do that well.

In response to the shadow minister I want to finish with the racing review. The racing review has delivered a new Albion Park racetrack. They were going to put harness racing out at Norwell. We have now brought that uncertainty to an end and made sure that the Albion Park harness racing track will be the jewel in the crown. We will invest more money in Marburg to make it a training centre. We will bring harness racing back to Toowoomba and we will give the money for the John Power stand, the \$25 million which they committed but did not give them. We will make sure they have enough money so we have a grandstand at our primary track here in Queensland that everybody will be proud of.