



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.20 pm): One of the significant decisions that this government made last year when it handed down its delivery plan for the Olympic and Paralympic Games was the decision to decentralise the venues across the state. Since that occurred the enthusiasm for the games has gone through the roof right across the state. One of the great things that has been seen is that local councils and cities have been out there basically saying, 'We want the games here because we want to be part of that action.'

That is one of the reasons there has been a lot of speculation around where rowing and canoeing will be held in 2032. I state categorically that the rowing will not be held in Sydney. The rowing will not be held in Moreton Bay. The rowing will not be held on the Gold Coast. The rowing will be held in Rockhampton. That is where it will happen. That was confirmed in the delivery plan and that is what will happen.

What some of those opposite fail to remember is that these games, as we were told many times by those opposite, fit into a new paradigm and that is that the games fit the city or the region that is awarded it, not the other way around. We do not have to fit in with what the OIC wants. We dictate the location of the venues. We dictate what will happen.

The puzzling thing about this is that even the shadow sports minister, a champion of the regions, was quoted as saying it was a silly idea to have rowing in Rockhampton. Let's go further. Even the self-appointed champion of Rockhampton, Robert Schwarten, who is suffering very badly from relevance deprivation syndrome, who gets his article in the *Courier-Mail* every month or so, does not believe that Rockhampton is up to it. He does not believe it. The Labor Party does not believe that Rockhampton should have rowing. It is a disgrace.

Let's look at the contrary view. We have the member for Rockhampton, the member for Keppel, the member for Mirani, Senator Canavan and the federal member Michelle Landry actively lobbied for it because they believe in their region, they believe in their ability to deliver something and they believe that their region deserves all the benefits that will come from hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

What is happening at the moment is happening in every sport where the OIC and the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee go through a process of basically ticking boxes, making sure that this happens here and this happens there. This is no different. We are still waiting for the sports to be confirmed before we go through this process of confirming where the venues will be located. I can assure everybody in this room that the rowing will be held in Rockhampton and Rockhampton will benefit greatly. Not just Rockhampton but the greater Central Queensland area will benefit directly. The unsourced rumours and the unsourced information being reported in newspapers are exactly that: they are unsourced, they are not reliable and they are not true. I can understand why there is speculation by people around the state wanting to have other parts of the games. I can assure—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Members on my left, there are far too many interjections that are not being taken.

Mr MANDER: As we know, Rockhampton has a proud history with regard to hosting rowing. Local schools, like Cathedral College and Rockhampton Grammar School, and, of course, the Fitzroy Rowing Club safely use this river every single day. I had the opportunity to row the mighty Fitzroy, as did the Deputy Premier, and what a great feat that was. The only thing that might be dangerous about Rockhampton is the Labor Party not supporting the regions.