



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (8.10 pm), in reply: First of all, I would like to thank all the members for their contributions to the debate today. The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 seeks to provide an effective and efficient regulatory framework for major events and major sporting facilities that drive social and economic benefit to Queensland and deliver statutory body best practice for governance, accountability and commercial agility. Amending the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to lift liquor licensing restrictions on concert noise and providing clarity that noise from special events at major sporting facilities will not be regulated by any local laws that may apply unlocks the full potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast as major concert venues.

Subject to the passage of this bill and following consultation with key stakeholders, such as the local community, the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland and others, it is proposed to make amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 to provide for conditions for special events such as concerts at those Gold Coast venues. This would allow People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium to overcome existing noise restrictions, creating opportunities for these venues to attract and host more concerts. This does not just benefit the Gold Coast, it strengthens Queensland as a whole as a destination for high-profile touring artists and international events.

More events across multiple cities means more visitors, more tourism and more economic activity across the state, supporting jobs in hospitality, transport, retail and entertainment. It also ensures Queenslanders everywhere have better access to world-class cultural and sporting events, enriching the social and cultural life of the whole state. In short, by making our venues competitive, we maximise opportunities for all of Queensland, not just one city.

By increasing maximum penalties for ticket scalping and making it easier for consumers to report unfair selling, we are ensuring access to tickets is more equitable and fans are protected.

Updating the board arrangements for Stadiums Queensland ensures strong oversight and accountability, while giving operators the agility to respond efficiently to new opportunities and deliver high quality events. This bill also keeps pace with modern challenges, including drones. The legislative provisions for ambush marketing will protect organisers and sponsors from unauthorised advertising, safeguarding the value of major events.

In short, this bill removes outdated restrictions and introduces practical, modern measures that ensure Queensland stadiums remain competitive, vibrant and trusted. It positions the state as a leader in hosting major events enriching cultural life, supporting local jobs and boosting tourism across Queensland.

The bill's minor technical amendment to the Major Events Act 2014 will also ensure Queensland's regulatory framework for major events ensures clear, unambiguous language that will improve efficiency and effectiveness in declaring major event areas and major events periods. This will support a more competitive, modern events sector that will ensure we continue to attract and retain the very best content for Queensland.

People First Stadium at Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium at Robina are cornerstone venues for the Gold Coast and key assets in Queensland's major venues portfolio owned by Stadiums Queensland. People First Stadium, originally built as Carrara Stadium in the mid-1980s, has been home to a whole variety of events such as the AFL and rugby league matches, concerts, festivals, Big Bash cricket and more. It served as the main stadium for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, hosting the athletics and opening and closing ceremonies. World-class acts such as Queen, Harry Styles, Paul McCartney, Pink and Pearl Jam have appeared at People First Stadium, drawing excited crowds to the Gold Coast, keen to see their favourite performers live in concert.

Cbus Super Stadium at Robina opened to the public in 2008 and is the home of the Gold Coast Titans. It has hosted a variety of major events, including international and national sporting events, such as the rugby sevens event as part of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, State of Origin 3 in 2021 and the 2021 Rugby Championship double-headers played between New Zealand, Argentina, South Africa and Australia. This versatile venue also hosts motorsports and, in 2022, it hosted the KISS End of the Road World Tour.

Currently, concerts at the Gold Coast must finish by 10 pm, 30 minutes earlier than the industry standard of 10.30 pm and earlier than the finishing time at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane. By amending the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to allow for an override to liquor licensing constraints on noise from concerts at major sports facilities, the untapped potential of People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium as major concert venues can be realised. The Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 also provides for clarity that noise from special events at major sports facilities will not be regulated by any local laws that may apply.

Subject to the passage of the bill, it is proposed to make amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 to provide for conditions for special events such as concerts at those Gold Coast venues, following consultation with key stakeholders such as the local community, the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland and others. Subject to those regulatory amendments, the Gold Coast would then be on a level playing field, making its venues more competitive with Brisbane for major touring artists and high-profile events. By lifting those old restrictions, we make these venues more attractive to artists and event organisers, creating opportunities for more events, more energy and more life in our Gold Coast stadiums. Attracting more visitors to the Gold Coast for major concerts will drive significant economic benefits by boosting revenue and supporting local jobs, as well as enriching the cultural and social life of the community.

The Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 establishes Stadiums Queensland as the authority responsible for owning, managing, operating, using, promoting and developing the state's major sports facilities. These venues are capable of hosting national and international sport, recreation, entertainment and special events such as concerts. This bill helps remove barriers that have limited how these major venues can be used. It enables Stadiums Queensland to attract and deliver concerts in a way that better meet industry standards and community expectations. These changes will bring the Gold Coast stadiums into line with other major venues, ensuring they can continue to attract high-profile events that support Queensland's reputation as a premier destination for sport and entertainment.

This legislation seeks to increase maximum penalties for ticket scalping under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 to help ensure Queensland remains competitive for major sporting and entertainment events. We are also ensuring that Queensland fans can enjoy world-class events without being ripped off by scalpers. Currently, penalties for reselling tickets to a major sports facility event or a major event at a price greater than 10 per cent above the price of the ticket is set at 20 penalty units or just over \$3,000 for an individual and almost \$17,000 for body corporates. These maximum penalties are well below those in other jurisdictions, including New South Wales which is one of our biggest competitors for major sporting and entertainment events.

Promoters of major events rely on strong ticketing protections to safeguard their brands and maintain public confidence in the events they deliver. The increase in penalties for individuals to just over \$22,000 and for bodies corporate to just over \$113,000 will help ensure Queensland remains competitive and sends a clear message that ticket scalping will not be tolerated. Queensland is currently the only state that penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets. The bill proposes to remove that provision to encourage people to report ticket scalping without fear of being fined themselves. This approach will support the achievement of a key objective of the bill: to deter the resale of tickets at inflated prices.

If we want to attract world-class events, our legislative framework must be world class too. Aligning the Major Events Act 2014 and the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 strengthens ticket integrity, ensures consistent compliance settings and gives global promoters the certainty that they demand. Consistency across our two key event acts is not a technical detail; it is a competitive advantage. International rights holders look for jurisdictions that are coordinated, predictable and professional. They

look for strong anti-scalping protections. They look for clear enforcement powers across venues. They look for governments which have done the work. This bill demonstrates that we have done that work, and we are already seeing the dividends of that approach. The government secured the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo—

A government member: Underway as we speak.

Mr MANDER: I hope it is not raining.

A government member: No. It's going fantastically.

Mr MANDER: It is one of the world's most spectacular and historic military and cultural events, and it is in Brisbane for the first time. As we just mentioned, the first show is on right now, with over 1,000 performers and a global audience, bringing an estimated \$39 million economic boost to the city. This is what happens when you combine vision, investment and a legislative framework that inspires confidence.

Securing events like the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is about more than four nights at a stadium; it is about filling hotels, energising restaurants, supporting small businesses and showcasing Queensland's lifestyle, culture and natural beauty to the world. This bill strengthens our ability to secure more global spectacles, more international tournaments, more cultural events and more business conventions and to deliver them seamlessly. It reduces complexity. It strengthens consumer protection. It aligns our enforcement frameworks. It sends a clear message that Queensland is ready—ready for the next Rugby World Cup, ready for more cultural icons, ready for 2032 and ready for the decade beyond.

During 2025 the Queensland Racing Review was undertaken, culminating in a recommendation report being provided to government in September 2025. The government response to the report, published on 6 December 2025, is titled *The next lap: a plan for the future of Queensland racing*. As outlined in the response, the Queensland government has committed to making governance of the racing industry more efficient.

The review heard consistent feedback that inconsistencies with the Queensland racing governance model needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Following government consideration of the report, the board has been tasked with developing an implementation plan by no later than 2 April 2026. This implementation plan is expected to detail the timetable of responsibilities to implement the government's response to the report, bringing meaningful change to the Queensland racing industry and Queensland regions. To drive the development of the implementation plan and to ensure the response is implemented in an efficient and timely manner, it is critical that the membership of the Racing Queensland Board be urgently amended, delivering on the government's commitment to reform the board, provide broad industry representation and provide greater flexibility in the appointment process. The amendment to this bill sees these commitments delivered.

I take this opportunity to address some of the matters raised in the second reading debate. I was asked about noise compliance and for clear, unambiguous guidance in this framework. Pending passage of the bill, future amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 will stipulate, similar to existing provisions for special events at Brisbane Stadium and Suncorp Stadium, that noise monitoring of special events is the responsibility of the stadium operator. Of course, these amendments will be considered in consultation with the community and other key stakeholders such as the City of Gold Coast to ensure we get things right. Noise-monitoring reports as undertaken by an independent acoustic consultant will be required to be published for each event. Any breach of those conditions as outlined in the independent report will be investigated by the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation as the department with administrative responsibility for the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to determine the parties responsible for the breach. The bill does not change existing regulatory settings for enforcement and compliance.

An example of a self-regulation approach, which is proposed to be adopted for the two Gold Coast stadiums, is the operation of Suncorp Stadium. This self-regulation approach is widely used across the statute book and in the case of Suncorp Stadium requires that the stadium abide by and monitor compliance with regulatory conditions. The stadium engages technical and other staff for noise monitoring and complaints management. This has proven to be very successful.

I now want to talk about some of the changes with regard to the Brisbane Olympic act. Last year Labor voted for the laws that provide planning, environment and cultural heritage exemptions to games infrastructure projects, knowing at the time that projects would be subsequently added. Now that the 2032 Delivery Plan projects are being added, Labor are acting surprised, like they had no plan and never saw a single shovel in the ground for games infrastructure delivery. These amendments are the next stage in our promise to Queensland.

Queenslanders made over 5,800 submissions to our 100-day review of these projects. The amendments to the act that were passed last year went through an extensive committee process and public consultation, and the projects added today were identified in the 2032 Delivery Plan almost a year ago. The Crisafulli government is getting on with the job. These amendments are necessary, due to Labor's 1,200 days of chaos when there was no plan. It left us with no choice to reach our 2032 deadline on time and on budget. The Brisbane City Council will continue to work with tenants of Victoria Park to finalise all impacted commercial end-of-lease agreements. We announced almost a year ago that that work was going to begin on the Brisbane Stadium and surrounds. The vesting empowers GIIICA to take possession of Victoria Park by 1 June 2026.

While the Crisafulli government is getting on with the job, all we saw from Labor today was a disgraceful attack from the member for Aspley on the Deputy Premier, who has repeatedly disclosed his interests publicly in this House. The question today is: are Labor going to support these amendments or are they going to get in the way of games delivery? If the wasted 1,200 days was not enough, now they are wanting to delay the projects once again.

It is my belief that Labor do not want the games infrastructure built on time. For political advantage, they will do everything to make sure we do not deliver the promises that we made. By passing this legislation tonight we will cut through the rubbish, we will cut through the red tape, we will cut through the bureaucracy and we will deliver what Queenslanders are asking for. They are asking for us to get on with the job.

The Labor Party obviously does not understand that there is a deadline—a non-negotiable deadline—in 6½ years, and Queenslanders will not accept any excuse if we do not meet that deadline. We are a government of action. We are a government that builds things. That is what we will do. I commend the Deputy Premier for what he has done to bring these amendments to this bill so that we can do exactly that. These people opposite have such temerity. After 1,200 days of doing nothing—they had 11 years notice, the greatest advance notice ever given to a host city—

Mr Stevens: They blew it!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection—they blew it. The public sentiment in this state was so low. It was low in Brisbane, let alone out in the regions. It was not until we handed down our 2032 Delivery Plan that the vibe and the sentiment in this state changed. Now we have councils right across the state begging to have training events, to have athletes from other countries come and stay in these cities, to have events themselves. That is why we are proud of the program that we will deliver. We have regionalised the games. There will be events from Cairns, from Townsville, from Mackay, from the Whitsundays, from Rockhampton, from Maryborough, from Toowoomba, from the Sunshine Coast, and from the Gold Coast to Brisbane. We will deliver a games that Queenslanders deserve and that Queenslanders will be proud of.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.