



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to speak again on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2025 and referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee for detailed consideration. I would like to thank the committee for their detailed consideration and the public briefings and hearings they undertook. Officers from the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games, with support from the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, provided a briefing paper and appeared at the public briefing to the committee about the bill on 17 September, with further information provided as requested by the committee. The committee received four submissions to its inquiry on the bill and tabled its report on 17 October 2025. I table a copy of the government's response to that report.

Tabled paper: State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee: Report No. 13, 58th Parliament—Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, government response [183](#).

I would like to thank the chair—the member for Lockyer—and the committee members for their timely consideration of the bill as well as acknowledge the work of the committee secretariat. I also would like to thank the organisations that made submissions in relation to the bill, the officers from Stadiums Queensland and the City of Gold Coast who spoke at the committee's public hearing on the bill on 30 September down at Southport, and representatives of the Ticket Brokers Association of Australia who spoke at the committee's public hearing here in Brisbane on 1 October.

The committee's report made three recommendations. The first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support. The committee's second recommendation was that the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games consult with the City of Gold Coast and other key stakeholders on any future amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014—the regulation—relating to the operation of special events at Carrara Stadium and Robina Stadium. The Crisafulli government supports this recommendation and, pending passage of the bill, the department intends to set regulatory conditions for the operation of special events at Carrara Stadium and Robina Stadium through a future amendment to the regulation. The department will consult with key stakeholders, including the City of Gold Coast, Stadiums Queensland, stadium operators and hirers and the local community, during the development of these regulatory conditions to support the development of appropriate, fit-for-purpose regulatory conditions for the operation of special events at the stadiums.

Mr Kempton interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take no offence from that interjection. I will try to beef it up a bit now. The committee's third recommendation was that the department monitor the effectiveness of increased ticket-scalping penalty provisions, including any enforcement or compliance challenges, to ensure the amendments achieve their desired outcomes and remain fit for purpose. The Crisafulli government supports this recommendation and, pending passage of the bill, the department will seek to work with the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies such as the Office of Fair Trading within the Department of Justice to monitor the effectiveness of increased penalties for unlawful ticket reselling under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and Major Events Act 2014 to support achievement of the bill's objectives.

I am pleased to inform the House that the bill received strong support from stakeholders who provided submissions. The feedback presented during the committee's examination of the bill highlighted key matters that will be important for the department to consider as we proceed with consultation on amendments to the regulation. These amendments aim to establish a long-overdue regulatory framework for special events, including major concerts at People First Stadium in Carrara and Cbus Super Stadium in Robina. For too long the Gold Coast has been treated like a second-class destination by the former Labor government, held back by a tangled web of state and local bureaucracy. In contrast, the Crisafulli government is committed to securing Queensland's place as the event capital of the country.

This bill ends the era of archaic inconsistency with our stadiums. The new regulatory framework would effectively allow for concerts at these venues to be held until the industry standard of 10.30 pm instead of the current 10.00 pm curfew required in practice by liquor licensing constraints. This is about more than just an extra 30 minutes of music; it is about market efficiency. We are removing the handbrake of bureaucracy that has historically forced promoters to omit Queensland venues from their tours because of uncompetitive curfews.

The City of Gold Coast has given its broad support to the objective of the bill to attract major concerts that deliver social, cultural and economic benefits to the region. Understandably, like the Crisafulli government, the city wants to ensure a balance is struck between these benefits and effectively managing the impacts on the local community. The city would also like to better understand its role following any determination of noncompliance with proposed regulatory requirements for noise from concerts held at People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium.

Thanks also go to Live Performance Australia. Live Performance Australia is the peak body for Australia's live arts and entertainment industry and I am pleased to say they have offered their support for this bill. In particular, regarding the provisions which will ultimately enable concerts at the Gold Coast stadiums to finish at the industry standard time of 10.30 pm, in their words—

It would ... be disappointing for fans to be denied the opportunity to see their favourite act in their local area because event promoters have omitted Queensland stadiums and arenas from the tour because of the 10pm curfew.

Live Performance Australia also recognises that the current provisions which penalise buyers of tickets over 10 per cent of the original purchase price are out of step with other jurisdictions. By removing this offence, we are backing Queenslanders by delivering commonsense reform and ensuring our laws align with national best practice. Queensland is currently the only state that penalises buyers of unlawfully resold tickets, and removing that provision will encourage people to report ticket scalping without fear of being fined themselves.

The City of Gold Coast and Live Performance Australia both raised the issue of festivals with the committee. While the suggestion to include festivals within the definition of a 'special event' under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 appears to have merit on first read, as festivals in Queensland are not held solely on major sports facility land, the regulation of festivals is beyond the scope of this bill. As a government that respects jurisdictional integrity, we recognise that, because People First Stadium and adjacent council owned land are used together to host festivals, it is not appropriate for a single state agency to manage these events.

The establishment of regulatory conditions for major concerts at the Gold Coast stadiums will apply exclusively to events held entirely within the stadium's boundary or tenure. This approach ensures clear delineation of regulatory responsibility, with festivals spanning both People First Stadium and council owned land being regulated solely by the City of Gold Coast. Planning and operation of festival events should also continue to be managed in consultation with Stadiums Queensland.

I would like to thank the Ticket Brokers Association of Australia for their interest in the bill. The association is a professional industry body made up of several Australian-based marketplaces and individual brokers who represent the interests of the secondary ticket market in Australia. The association raised a number of issues in the interest of their stakeholders, including a recommendation

to increase the allowable ticket resale threshold from 10 per cent above the original price of the ticket to 20 to 30 per cent to reflect business costs of lawful ticket resellers and align with international practice.

We have considered this carefully and we must put Queenslanders first. As set out in the department's response to this submission, the 10 per cent margin provides a fair opportunity for individuals who can no longer attend an event to recover the ticket price, along with any associated resale costs, without opening the door to the kind of predatory profiteering that Labor allowed to fester for years.

In Queensland, the regulation of unlawful ticket reselling under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and the Major Events Act 2014 is specifically designed to prevent inappropriate profiteering by third parties who have no connection to the event. Selling tickets significantly above their face value not only is a barrier to entry that makes it harder for Queensland families to afford a night out but also jeopardises the commercial agreements between event organisers and their sponsors that keep our major events viable. Our position is clear: we want a service-led secondary market, not a scalper-led one. The association also took the opportunity of the committee inquiry to raise broader challenges in the regulation of ticket resale and suggest principles for the future approach to reselling in Queensland.

Queensland takes a collaborative, industry-led approach to managing unlawful ticket reselling. We are not here to play 'big brother'. We are here to support an industry that works for ticketing providers, event organisers, promoters and, most importantly, the fans.

Queensland legislation already permits the onselling of tickets as part of hospitality packages. Venue hirers at Stadiums Queensland facilities can bundle tickets with travel or accommodation and engage third-party providers to sell these packages subject to contractual rules that safeguard the commercial interests of Stadiums Queensland, service providers and hirers. Continuing to allow these packages is crucial for driving our tourism economy and supporting third-party providers who add genuine value to the fan experience.

Key measures to deter ticket scalping include enforcing ticket terms and conditions that prohibit resale or onselling, delaying the release of tickets to ticketing apps, limiting the window for onselling and supporting ticketing companies in operating their own resale platforms for consumers unable to attend events. However, flexibility must be balanced with integrity.

We support our commercial partners, and Stadiums Queensland maintains ticketing agreements with Ticketek, Ticketmaster and AXS—all of which offer platforms for consumers to resell tickets they no longer need. Resale platforms run by these ticketing providers are designed to be transparent and consumer-friendly, ensuring buyers know exactly what they are purchasing. These measures help minimise consumer harm and reduce the risk of fraud in the ticketing market, and we will continue to work together in implementing commonsense measures to deter scalping.

Introducing additional regulatory measures such as a licensing framework for ticket resale platforms is considered unnecessary red tape. Therefore, the aim of this bill is not to overhaul the broader regulatory framework for ticket reselling in Queensland. Instead, the proposed amendments focus on discouraging unlawful ticket reselling for events at major sports facilities declared under the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 and at major events declared under the Major Events Act 2014. This will be achieved by aligning maximum penalties with those in other jurisdictions—particularly New South Wales, which is Queensland's main competitor in attracting event content—and by removing the offence of purchasing an unlawfully resold ticket.

For too long, Labor allowed our penalties to languish, making us less competitive in the hunt for global event content. By increasing these fines and, crucially, removing the offence for purchasing a ticket, we are shifting the focus from punishing the victim to penalising the perpetrator. These changes are designed to: protect individuals who have lawfully purchased tickets; safeguard the interests of event organisers and sponsors; and establish a strong, modern regulatory framework that sends a clear signal to event organisers and sponsors to choose Queensland as their destination for hosting events. By safeguarding these commercial agreements, we are protecting the future of Queensland's golden age of events leading up to 2032.

Last, but certainly not least, many thanks to Stadiums Queensland for their support of the bill. Stadiums Queensland worked closely with the department in the development of this bill. I thank CEO Todd Harris and his officers for their expertise in assisting the department to make this legislation as robust and fit for purpose as it could be. Stadiums Queensland will continue to be a key stakeholder as we move forward with implementation and consultation on proposed amendments to the regulation.

In summary, the bill introduces key amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to introduce a head of power under the act to exclude liquor licensing and local laws in relation to conditions for amplified music from special events such as concerts which will streamline regulations for stadium operators. This change will allow concert noise conditions to be set directly under the regulation, addressing liquor licencing constraints that currently require concerts to finish by 10 pm and aligning with the 10.30 pm industry standard to maximise venue use and attract more events, particularly at People First Stadium and Cbus Super Stadium on the Gold Coast. The bill ensures the override of local laws is narrowly applied to noise-related matters for special events only, avoiding unintended impacts on other aspects of event management such as traffic and parking.

The bill will also strengthen deterrents for unlawful ticket reselling by increasing maximum penalties for individuals and corporations—this approach ensures alignment with penalties in other Australian jurisdictions—and removing the offence of purchasing tickets above 10 per cent of their original price, encouraging reporting of unlawful reselling and to harmonise with national practices. The bill will also modernise governance provisions for the Stadiums Queensland Board to update processes for appointment, termination, resignation and vacancies and allow the Governor in Council to appoint a deputy chairperson to strengthen leadership, support succession planning and manage strategic risks. Finally for the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the bill will update the definition of 'aircraft' to include unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, ensuring these are captured under unauthorised advertising provisions to address ambush marketing.

The bill also makes important amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 to ensure Queensland's legislative framework for major events remains contemporary, consistent and capable of supporting the state's growing event portfolio. The amendments to the Major Events Act 2014 are designed to provide alignment and consistency with the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, particularly in relation to ticketing-reselling provisions, and to strengthen the overall effectiveness of Queensland's event governance framework. These updates ensure that both acts operate cohesively, providing clarity for promoters, organisers and enforcement agencies while supporting a seamless and efficient approach to event delivery across the state.

In addition, the bill makes a series of technical and machinery-in-nature amendments to the Major Events Act 2014. These changes modernise the language of the legislation, remove ambiguity and improve the precision and consistency of key provisions. They will also ensure the Major Events Act 2014 remains clear and fit for purpose for current and emerging event models. Importantly, these refinements represent the first step in a broader program of legislative review to ensure the Major Events Act 2014 continues to reflect best practice as Queensland approaches the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Through these amendments, the Crisafulli government is taking early action to future-proof Queensland's major events framework, reducing complexity, improving regulatory agility and ensuring our legislation continues to deliver the right balance between community benefit, commercial opportunity and efficient administration. The Crisafulli government is committed to ensuring Queensland remains a world leader in event delivery. These initial updates to the Major Events Act 2014 strengthen the foundations of that vision and reaffirm our commitment to a dynamic, globally competitive and well-governed events sector that benefits communities right across the state.

I would also like to move that amendments be made to the bill. First, in relation to technical amendments to be made to the Major Events Act, I would like to move that the commencement of these provisions occurs on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

The Gold Coast will host six matches of the AFC Women's Asian Cup between 1 and 21 March 2026, injecting an expected \$12.5 million into the Queensland economy. It was great to see Football Queensland here today giving everybody an Australian jersey with their name on it. We expect you to wear that when you are either down the coast or watching that on television. A regulation declaring this important international event as a 'major event' under the Major Events Act is expected to be considered by the Governor in Council very shortly.

By commencing these technical amendments on a date to be set by proclamation, this government can ensure the declaration remains valid and effective, given it will be made under the act prior to any amendments made by this bill. This approach also allows the increased penalties for unlawful ticket reselling under both the Major Events Act and the Major Sports Facilities Act to commence at the same time, pending assent of the bill. That alignment will strengthen deterrence against unlawful ticketing activity in the lead-up to the AFC Women's Asian Cup and help protect the integrity and safe delivery of this major international event.

Secondly, and importantly, I would like to move that urgent amendments to the Racing Queensland board appointment and composition provisions within the Racing Act 2000 be included in the bill to fast-track implementation of relevant recommendations approved by the government from the independent Racing Review to ensure that meaningful and timely change is delivered for the Queensland racing industry and regions. This government is about action, not secret reviews. We are getting on with the implementation of the recommendations because we know that the Queensland racing industry cannot afford to wait.

These amendments seek to implement the legislative component of recommendations 3, 4, 77 and 88 of the independent Racing Review and will serve to deliver on the government's commitment to reform the Racing Queensland board by increasing the flexibility of the board, including broadening the pool of eligible candidates, simplifying board appointment processes and ensuring broad industry representation on the board, including from each of the board codes of racing—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound—as well as up to six other members who have skills and experience in one or more of the relevant areas or live in a rural or regional part of Queensland.

This government is committed to moving towards a modern, agile governance structure. This commonsense approach to industry stewardship prioritises transparency, protects integrity and delivers a better deal for Queenslanders. Racing's impact on the state is now close to \$2.5 billion per year and is responsible for around 14,500 full-time jobs for Queenslanders, so it is vital we ensure it will grow and prosper well into the future. This government is backing Queensland's racing industry.

Our regions are the heartbeat of racing in this state. For too long the challenges faced by our regional tracks and trainers were overlooked by the former Labor government. By enshrining regional representation in this legislation, we are ensuring that the voices of those who live and work in our country towns are heard at the highest level of decision-making. It is proposed that these amendments to the Racing Act commence on a date to be fixed by proclamation.

Finally, today we are also taking another important step in ensuring the successful planning and delivery of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. For 1,200 days the former Labor government failed to deliver a plan for the 2032 games. Since the Crisafulli government's 2032 Delivery Plan set a clear path out of Labor's chaos we have put the games back on track, and we are getting on with the job of delivering generational infrastructure in the lead-up to 2032 and beyond.

We have remained firmly focused on delivery, and in less than a year since the Delivery Plan was announced Queenslanders are seeing that, for the Crisafulli government, promises made are promises kept. Through the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021, we are introducing a series of targeted administrative amendments that enable the commencement of works and ensure key generational infrastructure projects across Queensland are able to be progressed under the streamlined pathway created to ensure delivery in time for the games. The Crisafulli government recognises that these amendments are not to be taken lightly, but they are necessary—as a result of more than three years of inaction, indecision and backflips from the former Labor government—to reach our 2032 deadline.

When the Crisafulli government amended the BOPGA Act in 2025, the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations indicated that subsequent amendments would be made for games infrastructure projects, including those defined in the 2032 Delivery Plan, to be added in schedules to the act as project planning progressed. These amendments formally recognise the Brisbane Athlete Village—a key housing legacy of the 2032 Delivery Plan—in the act so that its planning pathway may be accelerated. This designation is essential to support the timely delivery of a world-class home for our athletes for the duration of the games after the former Labor government forgot to fund the villages.

In August last year we announced the commencement of heritage restoration works on the Brisbane Showgrounds arena. The inclusion of the Brisbane Athlete Village today provides planning certainty to the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland and our village development partner so that further works can commence onsite after this year's Ekka.

The Crisafulli government is proud to be hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games that delivers for all of Queensland, which is why we are also incorporating games related transport infrastructure that provides generational legacy. This also ensures that transport projects that are critical to the movement of athletes, officials and spectators are captured in the legislative framework and delivered in time for the games. Transport projects will deliver benefits right across Queensland. The Wave on the Sunshine Coast, the Coomera Connector and the Cairns Western Arterial Road are all transformational projects delivering legacy transport outcomes that support Queensland's growing population.

The amendments also provide the necessary tenure for the new Brisbane Stadium and the National Aquatic Centre at Victoria Park, and both projects were included in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021 last year. These provisions are administrative in nature and ensure the various land tenures across Victoria Park will vest unencumbered in the GIICA so that works can commence in June 2026. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, GIICA and Brisbane City Council are working collaboratively to support this transition, including working with tenants to ensure works can get underway.

We have hit the ground running on games delivery in 2026, announcing the principal architects, COX and Hassell, with Azusa Sekkei, for the new Brisbane Stadium. These amendments continue this momentum and provide the certainty GIICA needs to continue delivery. We are also including the landmark Gabba arena, which is part of the transformative Gabba entertainment and housing precinct, as an 'other venue' under the act.

When the Delivery Plan was released, the Crisafulli government recognised the importance of delivering a new indoor arena for Queensland in the heart of Brisbane and commenced a market process to find an investment and delivery partner from the private sector. With strong national and international interest and the competitive transaction process underway, the inclusion of the Gabba arena within the BOPGA Act provides a clear commitment to investors that the Crisafulli government is prepared to prioritise its delivery. Recognising its potential for the 2032 Games, these amendments reduce risk and complexity to provide a clear runway for the bold transformation of this significant legacy precinct. The amendments clarify that the role of GIICA will only be required to oversee other venues—such as the Gabba arena—when directed by the minister.

Finally, a number of consequential amendments have been made, including clarification that development undertaken for a games-related use may be utilised prior to the games. This provides flexibility and supports the practical delivery of infrastructure in the lead-up to 2032. It is no secret that we have a shorter runway to get these games back on track after Labor's chaos and crisis. These amendments will ensure these venues and villages critical to Queensland's long-term future can get built in time. Together, these updates support a number of 2032 Delivery Plan once-in-a-generation projects moving from planning to efficient and effective delivery. It also reinforces our commitment to delivering a games that all of Queensland can be proud of—a games for all of Queensland.

Once again, I thank the organisations that made submissions on the bill and the committee for its prompt consideration. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.