



Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Minister for Sport and Racing—

Opposition members interjected.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (9.58 am): Mr Speaker, the—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Hold. I had not even finished introducing you. I could not pick who it was who was interjecting at the time, but if I do, you will be named. I call the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mr MANDER: The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for our state, an opportunity that we have saved from the fiscal recklessness that defines the members opposite. After a decade of decline under the former Labor government, we have put the games back on track.

I want to address what the single biggest threat to our \$7.1 billion venue budget is, and that is BPIC, or what is commonly known as the CFMEU tax. The recent commission of inquiry into the CFMEU raises a significant question, and that question is: what if? What if Labor was still in power? What if the CFMEU still had a vice grip on our Olympic infrastructure progress? What if productivity continued to plummet under their watch?

We do not have to let our imagination run too wild today. All we have to do is remember Labor's budget blowouts, fuelled by the CFMEU tax, when it comes to Olympic infrastructure. Let's not forget that the first of many of Labor's Olympic flip-flops was upgrading the Gabba for a billion dollars originally. Two years later the CFMEU cast their BPIC wand over the project and the budget blew out to a staggering \$2.7 billion. I think when GIICA did its analysis it went out to \$3.4 billion. It is absolutely disgraceful. Next we have the opposition leader's QSAC proposal—a temporary venue with no legacy, priced at \$1.6 billion. After further evaluation, there was estimated to be a \$650 million blowout to \$2.25 billion. This is not just a Brisbane problem; it is a threat to every regional community promised a games legacy.

We have analysed the impact of these conditions and the results are staggering. In South-East Queensland, BPIC would have added hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary costs to our major projects such as the Brisbane Athlete Village. By refusing to bow to union mandated conditions, we are ensuring the funding provided for the athletes villages, for example, actually delivers housing rather than just lines the pockets of union bosses.

For projects like the Sunshine Coast arena, Labor's CFMEU tax would have turned a world-class venue into a fiscal black hole. Our approach ensures the Sunshine Coast gets its venue on time and on budget, without Labor's premiums. The impact is felt most acutely in our regions. Every dollar wasted

on the CFMEU tax in South-East Queensland is a dollar taken away from regional legacy projects, whether they are in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, the Whitsundays, Rockhampton, Maryborough or Toowoomba. We are protecting the integrity of our whole-of-games budget so that regional facilities, which will showcase our state to the world in 2032, do not face the chopping block due to cost blowouts.

Queensland taxpayers are thankful they do not have to live with the what-if. The LNP are taking action today to avoid delays tomorrow. The choice for Queensland is clear: have Labor's BPIC and the crippling CFMEU tax blowouts and regional neglect or have the Crisafulli LNP government's leadership and managerial competence, delivered calmly and methodically, delivering world-class infrastructure within a responsible budget. We will not allow Labor's union mates to derail the games. We are delivering a golden age for Queensland, and we are doing it with the fiscal discipline that all Queenslanders expect.