




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2025

MOTION

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Delivery Plan

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.59 pm): Mr Speaker, congratulations must go to you, to the Treasurer and to Damon Phillips, the CEO of the Royal Agricultural Society. Mr Speaker, the Olympics is coming to your electorate. It is coming to our town of Toowoomba—saddle up, Toowoomba and the south-west! We are really excited to have it.

They talk about regional Queensland. Where do you think the horse floats will be coming from? The equine centre in Toowoomba, we are told, will possibly open in 2028. Forget about a green and gold runway, we will have that built and delivered by 2028 in Toowoomba and we will be able to start hosting events. For the first time Queensland will be able to have its own championships. This is a great legacy. We will have some pre-events. Queensland Country Tourism is already excited about what it means for our town.

We know that, on an annual basis, this facility will bring a \$6.8 million economic benefit to our region. We will be able to have horse events week after week throughout the year. At the Toowoomba show, I spoke to thousands of people from regional Queensland and they were so excited about this facility being in Toowoomba and that they would be able to come. We have already held the biggest horse show in Australia in the last 12 months, so imagine what will happen when we have an international facility of the calibre that will be built for the Olympics.

It is so exciting to know that we will be hosting Queensland championships, national championships and international competitions at the gold medal arena that will be set up at the Toowoomba showgrounds. There are a lot of people to thank, but I particularly want to thank Damon Phillips because, through the dark days when it looked like we were never going to get this up, he was speaking to me, to you, Mr Speaker, and to the Treasurer and he was lobbying hard because this is a great legacy for regional Queensland. I thank the Deputy Premier, the sports minister and, of course, our leader, the Premier, for bringing this to regional Queensland.

The whole of the south-west will be able to use this facility for a long time. Not only will it be good for the Olympics; it will be fantastic for the Olympic champions from Australia who will train there for the next 30 or 40 years. It will also bring great economic benefit to our region before the Olympics because it will allow people to hone their skills so they can compete. I look forward to the council, the federal member, the university and everybody getting on board the Games On! funding so that we can build an athletics facility in Toowoomba because that is what we need.

(Time expired)