



Speech By
Adam Baillie

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (5.49 pm): I rise to make a modest contribution to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. We are cementing Townsville as the tourism and events capital of the north. Just over the last week Townsville featured as a honeymoon destination on a TV show called *Married at First Sight*. Social media personality David the Medium is having an exclusive show in Townsville and it sold out in one minute. This weekend Townsville Fire will be playing their first game of finals after finishing at the top of the ladder in the WNBL. We wish them the best of luck in their finals campaign.

In addition, we have some major events coming to Townsville, welcoming the Kangaroos for their Rugby League World Cup game versus the Cook Islands and hosting another Rugby Union International game with the Wallabies taking on Japan following the enormous success of the Wallabies versus Argentina which was held last year. The PBR grand finals will be played in Townsville later in the year.

Last week we announced that next year in 2027 we will be hosting four Rugby World Cup games in Townsville, with Georgia versus Romania, Chile versus Hong Kong, Tonga versus Zimbabwe and Spain versus Canada. Of course in 2032 the Crisafulli government is making the games for all of Queensland, with Townsville set to become an Olympic city hosting the sailing against the backdrop of The Strand and Magnetic Island. We are also looking forward to hosting football at our stadium.

There are obviously a lot of benefits in bringing these events to the regions and to Townsville including economic benefits—what it means for small and family business, accommodation, tourism providers as well as the hospitality industry. What is often overlooked is what it means for families to have these events in the regions they live in, providing parents with the opportunity to expose their children to the best the world has to offer; to experience the atmosphere, the excitement; and to see skills on display without the expense and time commitment required for airfares and accommodation. To have these events in their home city makes an enormous difference to regional families.

An important part of having these events is to ensure that tickets are affordable and available for these families. That is why the amendments in this bill regarding ticket scalping are so important. 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 to ensure that Queensland remains competitive for major sporting and entertainment events.

We also need to ensure 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 original ticket is set at 20 penalty points, or just over \$3,000 for an individual and almost \$17,000 for bodies corporate. These existing penalties are an invitation to exploitation. They are well below those in other jurisdictions including New South Wales, which is one of our biggest competitors for major sporting and entertainment events.

The Crisafulli government is finally bringing Queensland into line with the rest of the country and strengthening our position as the events capital of Australia. Promoters of major events rely on strong ticketing protections to safeguard their brands and maintain public confidence in the events they deliver. If we allow scalpers to distort the market, we risk losing world-class content that Queenslanders deserve. The increase in penalties for individuals to just over \$22,000 and bodies corporate to just over \$113,000 will help to ensure that Queensland remains competitive, and it sends a clear message that ticket scalping will not be tolerated. This is a matter of economic fairness. We are aligning our deterrents with the rest of the country to ensure that Queensland remains a premier, trusted destination for global talent.

Furthermore, this bill removes the outdated provision that penalises the buyer of unlawfully resold tickets. Queensland is currently the only state with such a penalty, which ironically acts as a deterrent for victims to report the very scalpers who exploited them. By removing this hurdle, we are empowering consumers to stand up against unfair reselling practices.

I would like to thank the committee, ably led by the member for Lockyer in his role as chair, for the consideration of this bill, and we recognise their recommendation that the Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games monitor the effectiveness of increased penalty provisions, including any enforcement or compliance challenges, to ensure that the amendments achieve their desired outcomes and remain fit for purpose. I note that the department has undertaken to work with the Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies to monitor the effectiveness of increased maximum penalties for ticket scalping pending the passage of this bill.

By deterring the resale of tickets at inflated prices, we are protecting the social value of our major events and venues and ensuring everyday Queenslanders, the families and fans, no matter where they live or where the event is held across our great state, are not priced out of the events they love. Queensland and Townsville are open for business.