




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Olympic and Paralympic Games, Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): The 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a magnificent sporting event for Queensland. However, it is important to remember that when the South-East Queensland mayors first suggested bidding for the 2032 games the motivation was not to host a great sporting event for a couple of weeks; it was a catalyst to get the three levels of government working together to build the infrastructure required for a growing region and a growing state. They also knew that government works best when there is a deadline and that the 2032 games could be just that deadline.

While I look forward to seeing the Olympic flame lit above our new world-class stadium at Victoria Park, what really excites me is the transport infrastructure legacy that the Crisafulli government will deliver by 2032. The Crisafulli government has a massive program of investment in our public transport network: from the Wave on the Sunshine Coast, through Cross River Rail which we have back on track, connecting with faster rail to the Gold Coast and on to new stations being opened on the Gold Coast. We are delivering huge investments in sector 1 of our rail network—that section which is effectively the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast lines. We are also undertaking major upgrades of the rail signalling system on that sector to increase capacity and to improve reliability following years of chronic underinvestment by the Labor Party. Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast will also see big investments in high-frequency bus networks. We will ensure we have the bus depot and layover sites needed to cater for that increased fleet.

When we came to government we said that we wanted to make the 2032 games a games for all Queenslanders, not just the south-east. Our strategy on infrastructure investment is no different. I am proud to have secured a \$9 billion investment with the federal Labor government for the Bruce Highway, which is our critical corridor here in Queensland. Those opposite had given up on an 80-20 deal but we did not. Instead, we fought for a better outcome for Queensland and that program is already delivering critical safety upgrades right up and down the coast. We will also deliver the Tiaro bypass and the Rockhampton bypass—the Rockhampton Ring Road—a project that I was proud to help champion alongside our LNP federal CQ colleagues. That was from opposition, I might add, alongside the Rockhampton community. We are also rescuing the Cairns Western Arterial Road, which was sent back to the drawing board by the federal government under the previous Labor government—a fact that no rewriting of history is going to erase.

Just like our athletes, we know that we have a lot of work to do in the six years until the Olympic and Paralympic Games. With dedication and perseverance we will achieve great things in 2032 and leave a legacy that will benefit all Queenslanders for many years to come.