



Speech By  
**James Martin**

**MEMBER FOR STRETTON**

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## **MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. It is a relatively straightforward one. I want to start by raising my concerns about the way late amendments have been added to this bill. Only an hour or so ago, the Crisafulli LNP government added a range of venues including the Brisbane Athlete Village, the Gabba arena, the Wave stages 1, 2 and 3, the Mooloolah River Interchange stages 1 and 2, Coomera Connector stage 2, Cairns western arterial and Shute Harbour recreational boating facility to a legislative schedule that switches off normal planning, heritage and environment laws. For Queenslanders who live nearby that will mean no development application process, no public notification period, no formal opportunity to lodge objections, no third-party appeal rights, no independent review and no transparency.

These amendments are significant, but for some reason they have been rushed. We have been given only a few hours notice and there has been zero scrutiny and zero committee process. I have to ask: why is that? What is the government trying to hide? I would have thought the government would be up-front and a bit more transparent about these significant changes. It certainly does not look good; it looks very dodgy, and a committee process would have rightly shone a light on these amendments.

Before the election the LNP promised to be up-front and transparent with Queenslanders, so why are they dodging parliamentary scrutiny? What is going on? These projects are not just bypassing planning, heritage and environment laws; they are bypassing proper parliamentary scrutiny. The Crisafulli LNP government is exempting itself from the parliamentary committee process in order to avoid public submissions—perhaps embarrassing public submissions; we will not know—expert evidence and independent examination. Major generational infrastructure should withstand committee scrutiny, not be shielded from it with dodgy parliamentary tactics by the LNP. What should have been a reasonably straightforward bill will now raise suspicion amongst Queenslanders and the question is: why did the LNP do this?

I will move on to the bill. I want to start by acknowledging the importance of major events to Queensland's cultural life, our visitor economy and international reputation. Our stadiums and event precincts have become places where Queenslanders come together, whether for sports, concerts or major international events. This is particularly important as we move towards Brisbane 2032, a once-in-a-lifetime event that will showcase Queensland to the world.

Labor also supports the ongoing work to ensure our facilities remain competitive and attractive to promoters, performers and sports bodies. We want Queensland to host more major events and get the international recognition it deserves. While this bill contains elements that we broadly support, there are some areas where assurances are needed to ensure that communities, local governments and stakeholders remain properly consulted and that all sports benefit from the bill, not just the major codes. Frankly, with the way these amendments have been brought in today, the LNP are not off to a great start.

Firstly, the bill proposes a new regulatory framework for concerts at major sporting facilities, particularly on the Gold Coast, including the ability to harmonise noise conditions and operating hours. All members of this House recognise that supporting more concerts and big events delivers economic and cultural value. The Gold Coast in particular has long sought consistency with Suncorp Stadium operating times, and we support that. However, it is also important that we do not unintentionally override local voices or planning safeguards without adequate community consultation—something a committee process would have been perfect for. Residents living near these facilities deserve clarity about how noise, traffic and public safety impacts will be mitigated. Considering the actions today of the LNP government, they need to double down and commit to more consultation. The government has indicated that consultation would occur when the regulation is amended, but it is critical that this consultation is genuine, transparent and thorough. Communities need confidence that changes to operating conditions will balance economic opportunities with neighbourhood amenity. We want to ensure the state works closely with councils, operators and residents to deliver that balance.

Secondly, the bill strengthens penalties for ticket scalping while also removing penalties for purchasers. Stronger penalties can protect fans, improve fairness and enhance confidence in our events sector. As with any regulatory change, the success of these reforms will rely on enforcement and industry cooperation. We encourage the government to ensure that appropriate resources and monitoring processes accompany the increased penalties so that fans truly benefit and that it is made clear to the community that buyers will no longer be penalised.

The bill also updates several governance provisions for Stadiums Queensland, including the appointment of a deputy chair, changes to board vacancy management and updates to reflect contemporary statutory body standards. We encourage the government to ensure that governance changes remain consistent with robust public sector standards and that decision-making remains transparent to the community.

Updating ambush-marketing provisions to include drones and other emerging technologies is also a practical change. Whilst these adjustments appear technical, they will also contribute to Queensland's reputation as a reliable and well-regulated events destination.

As we look ahead to the Olympics, it is important our approach to stadium regulation fits into a broader vision for transport precinct development, community engagement and, importantly, legacy outcomes. Stadium regulation does not operate in isolation; it intersects with transport planning, pedestrian movements, security arrangements, land use and long-term community activation. We encourage the government to ensure regulatory changes are part of an integrated planning framework that maximises both the immediate benefits and the long-term legacy for local communities.

In this context of precinct planning, I must talk about the lack of support being provided to two core Olympic sports—namely, badminton and table tennis. As honourable members may be aware, I have long been a passionate advocate for these sports in my electorate. Badminton and table tennis are amongst the fastest growing sports in Queensland, driven by our state's vibrant, diverse communities. In Stretton I have seen firsthand how these sports bring people together, promote healthy lifestyles and showcase the incredible talent of our young players. With participation in badminton in Queensland increasing by 86 per cent and table tennis by 69 per cent in the last five years alone, now is the time to invest in the facilities and sporting pathways that will allow Queensland to become a national powerhouse in these core Olympic sports in the lead-up to the Olympics.

There is real potential for our elite athletes in Queensland to compete in table tennis at Brisbane 2032 and go for gold. However, this will clearly require enhanced training facilities, both to support local athletes and for international Olympians who may choose to undertake pre-games training in Queensland prior to the games. This would also encourage national and international tournaments to relocate to Queensland.

In June 2025 I wrote to the Minister for Sport asking that the government investigate development of a multisports facility, with a specific focus on badminton and table tennis, in or around my electorate, where the community loves table tennis and badminton, to meet the demand for these growing sports. It would also create opportunities to attract tournaments and training camps and allow Brisbane to become a centre of excellence for badminton and table tennis nationally. Unfortunately, the response from the minister does not address these requests and it is unclear at this point what will be provided for these two sports, but I will keep fighting on behalf my community.

I would encourage that these two core Olympic sports be considered in the context of this bill. I will continue to work with Queensland Badminton Association and Table Tennis Queensland to support their efforts. We want Queensland to thrive as an international events destination. We want our stadiums to be well used, well governed and welcoming to promoters and performers from around the

world. We support the bill but, at the same time, Queenslanders deserve reassurance that community expectations are met including ensuring that key Olympic growth sports such as badminton and table tennis are catered for.