



Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Sport

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.49 pm): I start by supporting the Premier's earlier statements in congratulating the Townsville Fire. On Sunday they played one of the greatest grand finals in WNBL history. They won in overtime after the lead changed 41 times. Coach Shannon Seebohm, finals MVP player Courtney Woods and the entire team once again showed that North Queensland is a powerhouse of international standard.

There is no doubt that Queensland is the home of Australian sport, and last week I shared that message in the United States as part of our commitment to deliver the games Queensland deserves in 2032. Los Angeles is currently preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games as well as being the host city for this year's FIFA World Cup. In Los Angeles we did not just meet with executives; we went into the engine room of the 2028 games. From the LA28 headquarters to the offices of Los Angeles city deputy mayors, our focus was razor sharp: logistics and legacy. We are not interested in the vanity projects of the former Labor government. We are learning how LA is utilising 50 venues to deliver a games that is fiscally disciplined and community focused. I also sat down with Aecom's Executive Vice President, Bill Hanway, to discuss the technical blueprint for venue delivery.

At the G'day USA round table my message was clear: the world will be watching Queensland so come over and partner with us. Unlike those opposite, the Crisafulli government has a plan to ensure that the world knows that Queensland is the home of Australian sport. Queenslanders love all sport and the popularity of American football is continuing on an upward spiral, particularly with younger sports fans. At a meeting with the NFL commissioner we had the first of what promises to be many discussions about growing the sport's presence in Queensland. Who knows? Maybe one day we will host an NFL fixture. When you build infrastructure such as a stadium that can seat 63,000 people, those are the types of events that you can attract.

Australian-based mixed martial arts champions have seen the UFC's popularity continue to explode in this country. With the Crisafulli government delivering new arenas in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, a positive meeting with the UFC has opened the door to bringing world-class cards to Queensland. I can also reveal to the House that, following meetings with NRL officials, discussions are underway to showcase the might of Queensland to the world with a potential State of Origin clash to be held between the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2032.

I am particularly proud to tell the House that, after decades of absence, Australia House is coming back as a centre for Australian athletes, supporters and local Americans. We found the perfect stage by securing a footprint at Venice Beach. We have created a permanent billboard for Queensland on the global stage. Venice Beach will be our launching pad to showcase our lifestyle, our trade and our 2032 vision to the world's most influential market. After 1,200 days of games chaos and confusion under the former Labor government, this government is restoring Queensland's global reputation.