

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 2026**

**Asked on 7 October 2010**

MRS KEECH asked the Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport (MR REEVES)—

### **QUESTION**

Will the Minister provide details of how Queensland Government facilities such as Skilled Park and the new Gold Coast Stadium will strengthen the bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast?

### **ANSWER**

I thank the Member for her support of Queensland Government investment on the Gold Coast and for her support for the Government's efforts to secure hosting rights for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

As the Member is aware, the Premier has recently returned from Delhi where she put forward the case of the Gold Coast to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Cities bidding for 2018 were invited to make a presentation and this was our first formal opportunity to spell out just why the Gold Coast is the ideal location for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The Bligh Government has made the tough economic decisions to enable a greater investment in sport and recreation than any other State or Territory in Australia.

Having two quality stadia on the Gold Coast is a huge boost for the 2018 Commonwealth Games bid. It provides the bid team with the opportunity to highlight what will be the existing infrastructure on the Gold Coast and this is bound to give the Gold Coast a competitive advantage.

Skilled Park has been operational since 2008 and has developed a reputation as one of the best regional stadia in Australia. Skilled Park is capable of hosting up to 27,400 patrons. Its use of public transport has proven successful with more than 85 per cent of patrons using this infrastructure to attend events. Much of the planning and operational overlay which would be needed to host games events has already been done.

Skilled Park has received a number of awards and recognition since 2008. These are listed below:

- Best Overall Project Award (R.W. Hawken Award), Engineering Excellence Awards, Engineers Australia Queensland Division
- Excellence Award, Building & Structures, Engineering Excellence Awards, Engineers Australia Queensland Division
- RAIH High Commendation Gold Coast
- RAIH Karl Langer Award for Building of the Year Gold Coast.

The \$144.2 million redevelopment of the Gold Coast Stadium at Carrara continues on time and on budget for completion in mid-2011.

This venue has been designed to accommodate the necessary overlay needed to host opening and closing ceremonies for the Commonwealth Games along with the track and field events.

If the Gold Coast wins the bid, this stadium will be extended to accommodate 40,000 patrons which will provide economic benefits to the Gold Coast through increased employment opportunities and accommodating more people here to enjoy the event and local hospitality.

The potential sporting, social, tourism and economic benefits associated with hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games are important to both the Gold Coast and Queensland.

The Bligh Government is committed to bringing great events to Queensland. They are good for tourism, good for jobs and great for the local economy.