

Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
Via online submission:
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/OnlineSubmission

Dear Mr McInally,

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Council (Council), I am pleased to be able to provide a submission in response to the Inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

As a Key Games Delivery Partner for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Council response will be addressing this particular event and will not be commenting on the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Furthermore, our responses have been limited to those reference points in the References Committee Invitation to those which our Council has been involved to date, have an interest in, or some level of responsibility in delivering.

a) the adequacy of existing sporting infrastructure to host Games events;

Consistent with a key guideline of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the proposed 2032 Games Master Plan (as included in the Future Host Questionnaire Response) optimises use of existing infrastructure and facilities while aligning with long-term development plans and anticipated growth patterns. It is Council's understanding that new venues are only proposed when the following criteria can be satisfied:

- The venue is planned irrespective of the Games
- The venue is required for legacy
- The venue explicitly supports the growth of the region.

The Sunshine Coast is currently proposed to host the following competition sports at these locations:

- Marathon Run – Alexandra Headland (staging area)
- Marathon Walk – Alexandra Headland (staging area)
- Cycle Road Race – Alexandra Headland (staging area)
- Cycle Time Trial – Alexandra Headland (staging area)
- Kiteboarding – Alexandra Headland (staging area)
- Football – Kawana Sports Precinct, Sunshine Coast Stadium (expanded venue)
- Basketball – Kawana Sports Precinct, Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre (new venue)
- Mountain Bike – Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre, Parkland (new/expanded venue)

The Sunshine Coast will also host five days of road based Paralympic Games events, with Alexandra Headland again utilised as the staging area.

In addition to the above sporting venues, an athlete village in Maroochydore City Centre will be established.

Those events to be held at the Alexandra Headland Staging Area can be conducted without the need for significant capital investment and upgrades to the field of play.

Our region and existing venues however would not be capable of hosting Olympic competitions for football, basketball and mountain bike riding without the investment that has been proposed. Importantly, these venues will provide benefits to the growing Sunshine Coast community pre and post the 2032 Games.

Sunshine Coast Council welcomes the recent signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Queensland Government. Without this investment, it is unlikely that a successful Brisbane 2032 Games could be delivered.

b) investments in the provision of new or upgraded sporting infrastructure to host Games events, which will have legacy applications for elite and community sports;

Whilst a strong area of focus during the design and construction phase for expanded and new 2032 Games venues will be ensuring appropriate Olympic Games overlay; significant emphasis is being placed on ensuring the venues deliver enduring legacy for our community. Our Sunshine Coast region will be expanding / developing three new venues in the coming years, with a view of having significant pre and post Games legacy. These projects are as follows:

Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre – basketball

The Sunshine Coast has been identified as one of two sites to host the 2032 Brisbane Olympic basketball event.

Council has identified for some time an existing undersupply of indoor courts in our region – which is forecast to grow substantially over the next 10 years. As part of the Brisbane 2032 Games proposal, a new indoor sports centre with capacity for 11 courts in legacy mode and a 6,000 seat show court has been proposed for the Sunshine Coast.

The new Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre will assist to address the existing (currently 12 courts) and projected deficit of multi-court indoor sporting facilities to 2041, predicted to be a shortfall of 25 courts. At the time of the Games in 2032, this deficit will be 18 courts.

Aside from benefitting basketball, it will also assist a range of sports including netball, volleyball, pickleball, futsal and badminton. Importantly, it will provide an opportunity to design and construct a facility that will be leading edge in respect to accessibility and service to the many para-sports and athletes we have in the region.

Similarly, our existing indoor sports stadium at Caloundra has seen in recent years an influx of participants in sports such as Pickleball, Walking Soccer and Walking Netball. These participants are primarily in the ageing demographic and the popularity of this sport has now resulted in a need for greater access. A new indoor sports centre will significantly assist in this regard.

The access for our youth, outside of established competitions, will also be enhanced through access provided for schools. Sunshine Coast School Sport is the representative school sport program and an initiative of the Queensland State Government Department of Education (DoE). All Sunshine Coast schools are affiliated with this body. Sunshine Coast School Sport run numerous activities during the course of the year where indoor court provision is required and an eleven-court complex would provide them with great opportunities to deliver their services.

Importantly, an international standard facility of this nature has the potential of hosting a number of mass participation and elite sports events. The current design considers the standards required to host elite competitions, particularly for sports such as basketball and netball. Following the success of the Sunshine Coast Lightning Super Netball team, our region aspires to attract further elite / national

sporting teams to the Sunshine Coast. Our region also has a strong track record of attracting elite teams for training camps and this facility will significantly add to that offering.

As part of the Future Host Questionnaire submitted to the International Olympic Committee in May 2021, the Kawana Sports Precinct was presented and subsequently approved by the IOC to co-host with Brisbane the Brisbane 2032 basketball competition. With this location now confirmed, planning and design works have commenced with a view to start construction of the new indoor sports centre in 2026. This means the venue will be available to our community in 2028, well before the Brisbane 2032 basketball competition. That is exactly what our collective commitment to a 10+10+ legacy is all about.

Sunshine Coast Stadium expansion - football

The Sunshine Coast Stadium has been identified as one of the sites to host the 2032 Brisbane Olympic football event.

Council has long held aspirations to expand the existing Sunshine Coast Stadium to ensure it has the capacity to stage national sporting, recreational and entertainment events. The expanded Sunshine Coast Stadium will be the pre-eminent major sport facility of its type within the Sunshine Coast region and within a wider catchment from north of the Brisbane local government area through to North Queensland. This facility and its environs will in turn drive increased employment opportunities, contribute to the growth of the regional economy and reputation and – through its event program and related activities and services – encourage greater participation in sport.

A major sports facility with the capability to stage national sport events is a “missing piece” of the core economic and community infrastructure mix for a region of this size and its projected growth. For this reason, Council and its funding partners are committed to the delivery of infrastructure and facilities that would attract and leverage elite sporting teams and events to the Sunshine Coast region.

The legacy is not just confined to Sunshine Coast Stadium. With the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre being delivered in the Kawana Sports Precinct, the Precinct will become one of the most desirable sport, health and wellbeing precincts in Australia. One of the main goals of the Sunshine Coast Stadium expansion is to capitalise on the impact and spill of the 2032 Brisbane Games across the entire Kawana Sports Precinct. A detailed Feasibility Study completed by KPMG in 2018 highlighted that the expansion of Sunshine Coast Stadium will make a significant social, health and economic contribution to the Sunshine Coast and the wider state of Queensland.

Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre

The Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre, in conjunction with the adjacent Parkland Conservation Park, has been identified as the site to host the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Mountain Bike (MTB) event.

The Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre presents a key legacy opportunity and potential for holding additional international and major sport events; completing the network of experiences across the region and supporting highly desirable nature-based and inclusive recreation for the local community.

Long-term planning for the region has identified this planned venue as a place of unique social, cultural and natural value that can deliver a compelling case for 2032 Brisbane Games legacy; creating change for the region, Queensland and Australia.

The scale of the 2032 Brisbane Games opportunity for the Sunshine Coast region and the legacy created and curated by the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre will be significant and realised across the following critical dimensions:

- Economic – creating jobs and opportunities for the region and Queensland with more local business opportunities in event logistics and tourism. Economic benefits are far-reaching as this

highly accessible Hub, only 17 minutes from the Sunshine Coast Airport, complements other Queensland and Australian venues by creating international attention to an Olympic standard venue and the various high-quality trails;

- Infrastructure – meeting the forecast demand for mountain bike activities in a growing region, state and nation (a 300% increase in Mountain Bike participation is expected across Australia by 2030) through high-quality experiences for riders of all levels, to use and enjoy over the long-term;
- Social – creating benefits for generations; through safe, sustainable sport activation and growth in a natural-asset of high value which is closely connected to the region's Blue Heart (a sustainability initiative of Councils to protect and enhance areas of high biodiversity); along with ecological and environmental site management and education through volunteering and enduring partnerships between all stakeholders; and
- Sport – an accessible, open-to-the-public venue for community and elite sports; activating healthy lifestyles to world-class competition sports.

The 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games Mountain Bike event presents the opportunity to take existing planning and scale up to achieve even greater outcomes for the local community and future events for our region.

The Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre site of 90 hectares offers an elevation change of 110m and comprises a range of landscape types including open grass fields, cane lands and pockets of native vegetation. These ingredients provide an idyllic framework to build the required legacy infrastructure for enduring major events and creating an array of interesting community trail experiences in the surrounding landscape.

The creation of a top tier recreation experience would become a reality with the inclusion of the Olympic MTB course and legacy infrastructure integrated with the existing 40km of purpose-built mountain bike trails and 20km of multiuse trail in the adjacent Parklands Conservation Park.

The Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre would facilitate a wide array of events for a range of user groups with a focus on mountain biking, trail running, and horse riding. Existing infrastructure and amenity do not support current demand and would benefit greatly from the proposal to accommodate future events and importantly everyday use for the local community.

c) consultation by responsible state and Australian government agencies with peak national and state sporting representative organisations to ensure any new investments in Games sporting infrastructure meet the needs of elite and community sports now and into the future;

In partnership with our Games Delivery partners, significant engagement has already taken place and will be ongoing with peak national and state sporting representative organisations. This engagement has allowed for specific considerations to be given to design elements of our new sporting facilities and ongoing operations. This engagement has considered community and school use, large scale mass participation events and elite competitions and training. For the three Sunshine Coast venues, this engagement has included the following:

- Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre – Basketball Australia, Basketball Queensland, Netball Queensland, Volleyball Queensland.
- Sunshine Coast Stadium – National Rugby League, Queensland Rugby League, Rugby Australia, Football Queensland.
- Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre – AusCycling, Australian Cycling Academy.

d) the adequacy of oversight and accountability processes for investments in new or upgraded sporting infrastructure to host Games events;

Specific to venues, Council is satisfied with the level of engagement with our organisation in respect to design and ultimate investment decisions to be made. This has included involvement in activities such as venue design, project validation reporting, social impact assessments, multi criteria analysis, investment logic mapping and risk management. These works are being overseen by the Queensland Government and undertaken to ensure responsible investment decisions are made for all 2032 Games related projects.

The recent execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Queensland Government provides all Games Delivery Partners with a clear outline of roles and responsibilities in relation to delivery of new or upgraded infrastructure.

e) investments into the provision of transport infrastructure to facilitate the involvement of more Australians in the Games;

For the Council, the objective has always been very clear: To utilise the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to secure long-overdue investment in road and transport infrastructure in our region and to ensure a legacy for our communities.

Our region is the fastest growing region in Australia. Southeast Queensland is home to one in seven Australians and likely to be home to one in six Australians by 2032. The Sunshine Coast alone, is the second fastest growing region in Queensland with our annual growth rate having accelerated further as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council's Integrated Transport Strategy responds to the challenges and opportunities facing our region and outlines our vision to address the Sunshine Coast's transport needs. This plan outlines a large number of projects however those main priorities connected to delivering a successful Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games are as follows:

- a new regional heavy rail connection linking Beerwah to Caloundra, Kawana and Maroochydore along the CAMCOS corridor suitable for longer distances between stops;
- a new local mass transit system along the coastal corridor suitable for shorter distances between stops;
- the upgraded existing regional heavy rail line running from Beerwah to Nambour;
- an improved high frequency bus network connecting to other key destinations such as the hinterland; and
- an improved supporting network of feeder buses, park n rides and active transport connections.

We are constantly focussed on how we best position our region and our communities to maintain the outstanding liveability that we enjoy and the opportunities to capture and sustain the jobs, investment and the associated prosperity for our residents. Furthermore, there is a great risk to the success of the 2032 Games if these transport projects are not delivered.

This is our moment to see vast improvements in major transport connectivity for the Sunshine Coast and we are looking forward to further detail from the state and federal governments on how and when that investment will occur.

f) the adequacy and accessibility of, and planning for, accommodation to host athletes, organisers, support staff and Games attendees and future use;

Athletes and officials competing in Brisbane 2032 events staged on the Sunshine Coast will also be accommodated at an Athletes Village in the Maroochydore City Centre, Australia's newest and most contemporary city. The 53-hectare site is being developed from the ground up and is becoming a vibrant, sophisticated central business district, providing a mix of residential, commercial, retail, civic and community uses.

The Sunshine Coast Athlete Village accommodate up to 1,400 athletes and officials during the Games. In legacy, the Sunshine Coast Village will provide a mix of residential housing and commercial use.

Outside of the Athlete Village, Sunshine Coast Council is working diligently on a number of fronts to identify and attract new investment in hotel stock. There are some concerns at this point in time that our region does have a shortfall in respect to the number of hotel and other short term accommodation offerings required for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

g) the costs and benefits to the Australian community of investments in infrastructure to support the Games, including any impacts on local government, communities and business in host locations;

It needs to be recognised that the governance arrangements in respect to hosting an Olympic and Paralympic Games are very complex and in fact, some of the roles and responsibilities of the many key delivery partners have just been finalised.

Sunshine Coast Council is aware that OCOG (Brisbane 2032) are the overarching authority responsible for delivering the 2032 Games.

Our Council, as a key delivery partner, does have significant responsibilities to support the delivery of the 2032 Games. On 15 April 2021, Council approved a series of actions to support its contribution towards what was then, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games proposal. This included authorisation for the Chief Executive Officer to execute a Delivery Partner Guarantee Deed and other supplementary Venue Use Agreements with the Queensland Government.

As a consequence of entering into the Delivery Partnership Guarantee Deed, Council has committed to (among other things):

- making existing venues available to the OCOG for the nominated exclusive use period in the months leading up to the commencement of the Games and during the Games event itself;
- providing land on which new or planned venues (i.e., the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre and the site for the Olympic Community Centre) are to be delivered; and
- providing expanded Council municipal services during the 2032 Games period to support the staging of Games events and maintain the liveability of the Sunshine Coast.

To date, it has not been possible to define in any detail or certainty the likely operational cost to council in participating in the Brisbane 2032 Games – we do know however that it will be substantial, particularly in the years 2028 to 2033.

Cognisant of these costs, Council is committed to ensuring optimum return on investment and enduring legacy for our community. In 2022, Council established the Sunshine Coast 2032 Legacy Community Reference Group. This group of diverse and passionate community members has met on a number of occasions now and is providing excellent feedback to Council in respect to how every

single person in our community can benefit from SCC being a key delivery partner of the Brisbane 2032 Games. We have had some great conversations with our CRG and already identified opportunities in areas such as Disability and Access, First Nations, Arts and Culture, Youth, Business, Tourism and Sustainability.

In January 2023, this Community Reference Group launched its 10+10+ Legacy Vision in which some of the outcomes our region will be seeking to secure were identified as:

- new and improved transport systems, including the delivery by the Queensland and Federal governments of a passenger rail service from Beerwah to Maroochydore and an improved Sunshine Coast public transport system to cater for the needs of our growing population;
- a range of community-based programs that cover areas such as First Nations, arts and culture, volunteering, disability access and inclusivity generally;
- programs and projects to protect and enhance our natural environment - which in turn, will also contribute to achieving the commitment to deliver a climate positive 2032 Games
- increased hotel and accommodation options and a focus on developing the Sunshine Coast as an accessible and inclusive tourism destination; and
- greater participation in community sport, passive and nature-based recreation opportunities, along with delivering world class, accessible multi-purpose sporting venues.

While getting the right infrastructure commitments in place and delivered is crucial, the legacy for our region from being a part of the Games experience must also encompass actions that will make a meaningful impact on the liveability and sustainability of our Sunshine Coast.

h) claimed economic and tourism benefits of the Games;

Within some early planning undertaken when considering a bid for the 2032 Games, analysis showed that the Games has the potential to deliver significant benefits. These benefits include:

- supporting around 130,000 direct jobs, as well as tens of thousands of indirect jobs, including over 10,000 tourism induced jobs in the Games year alone;
- a \$20.2 billion increase by 2036 in overnight international visitor expenditure in Queensland (TEQ data), with about half to be dispersed throughout regional Queensland (based on current dispersal profile);
- Trade and investment opportunities – Games-driven uplift of 0.2 per cent to 0.4 per cent in export revenue; and
- The Queensland Government's Value Proposition Assessment states the Games can deliver significant whole-of-State benefits over a two-decade window pre, during and post the Games. Benefits include a significant tourism uplift, capacity building leading to opening new export opportunities, supply chain opportunities.

In 2021, Council commissioned KPMG to undertake a preliminary economic benefit analysis specific to our region. This work indicated high-level economic benefits of between \$82 million and \$364 million, with the range reflecting the Games being 11 years away and therefore subject to change, fluctuation and uncertainty. The indicative impact of the Games includes the effects that visitors have on the regional economy through expenditures; the developmental benefits of targeted infrastructure investments and the long-term 'legacy' benefits that amplified exposure to an international audience brings in the years before and after the Games.

i) impacts on housing affordability in areas where proposed Games venues will be located and surrounds;

As local government, we are closest to communities. Our Council and all Councils in Queensland want to work with key stakeholders to tackle housing crisis gripping cities, towns and regions across the state.

The LGAQ, representing the 77 local councils in Queensland, has developed a 6 point action plan, calling on State and Federal Governments to agree to a number of initiatives, including the following:

- Quadruple capital investment in social housing in Queensland;
- Extend the First Home Owners Grant;
- Unlock abandoned, unused and empty properties;
- Commit to closing the gap in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
- Invest \$200 million over 4 years to assist councils to develop and implement innovative housing partnerships.

Sunshine Coast Council has also engaged with Q Shelter in light of research undertaken that shows that mega events negatively impact on those people who are vulnerable – particularly vulnerable to increased housing demand, increased prices and exclusion from public spaces. We look forward to working with Q Shelter and other agencies as we plan for the 2032 Games.

At a local level, our Council instigated a number of initiatives to address housing affordability and the associated issues that flow from this. Whilst this will need to be considered in light of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, this is an issue that all levels of government need to address now and not wait until 2032.

j) the potential for regions to benefit in the short and long term from Games investments;

As a Games Delivery Partner and host to a number of 2032 Games events, we are well positioned to ensure that our region benefits in both the short and long term.

The Sunshine Coast is also a member of the Council of Mayors Southeast Queensland (CoMSEQ). In fact, CoMSEQ were the original architects of the 2032 bid and resultant candidature process. CoMSEQ started the investigation in 2015 to look at the feasibility of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games to bring forward investment in transport infrastructure in Southeast Queensland, as well as to position the region as a global destination for tourism, trade and investment.

Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson was the first official to meet face-to-face with the IOC President Thomas Bach in Sydney on 30 April 2015 to discuss the potential for a SEQ Games proposal under the IOC's New Norm model. Since then, we have advocated strongly to all levels of Government and our Olympic and industry partners to show the benefits of a regional Games.

It's not just about hosting the biggest event in the world. It's about capturing an array of economic, social and infrastructure investment opportunities for our Sunshine Coast and, indeed, Southeast Queensland. As an example, the 10 South East Queensland Mayors are standing as one to advocate fiercely for the public transport network and future legacy that will be integral to the 2032 Games.

In this capacity, we are working very closely on ensuring that benefits are derived for all CoMSEQ Councils, not just those fortunate enough to be hosting events. CoMSEQ has commissioned EKS in working with all 10 Councils to identify and prioritise key Games leveraging and advocacy programs.

Whilst this work is still in progress, already a number of themes have been identified that endeavour to make a positive impact on the entire Southeast Queensland region.

k) any other related matters.

That core deliverable for Council – and is – for the hosting of the Games to help deliver much-needed transport infrastructure across the region, particularly here on our Sunshine Coast.

But our transport infrastructure and physical connectivity is not the only legacy we should be seeking from the staging of the Games. Our natural environment, our people, their shared experiences and providing them with inspiring futures are the architecture on which we are all building the future of our communities.

The strong partnerships that we have forged between the three tiers of government, the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia in developing the Brisbane 2032 proposal, will be just as integral as we seek to realise the legacies we want to see delivered for our Sunshine Coast.

We hope to see those partnerships maintained and enhanced over the next 10 years.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide input into this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Grantley Switzer
SC PROGRAM LEAD – BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES