

Committee Secretary Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,

I'm writing to you from Italy to express my strong opposition to the proposal for the Birkdale White Water Facilities for the Olympic Games for these reasons:

- Enclosed my interview with Timothy Fernandez ABC Illawarra aired last week. We talked about the status of koalas in Australia and my passion for koalas and international concerns about the status of koalas and Australian wildlife.
- Redland City Council's own community consultation processes have shown that the Whitewater Stadium is not wanted in the Redlands. Given the evolution of the project to date, it appears that hosting an Olympic venue is of more importance to the Council than to the people of the Redlands. Furthermore, I am greatly concerned that Council has not disclosed to the community the economic, environmental and social impacts of building an Olympic Whitewater Stadium on the Birkdale land.
- Allocating a fraction of the capital investment of a new Olympic Stadium to upgrade the Penrith facility would achieve significant savings for all levels of government – money that could be better spent elsewhere.
- The unnecessary construction of a new Whitewater Stadium is contrary to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) policy of using existing facilities; accordingly, the existing Olympic 2000 facilities in Penrith, New South Wales should be used.
- **The proposed site for the Whitewater Stadium is surrounded by Core Koala Habitat (Queensland Government mapping).** This is also in direct conflict with IOC policy which states where new permanent venues need to be constructed, the Hosts, the Host NOC and the OCOG shall ensure they are not located in or adjacent to statutory nature, cultural protected areas or World Heritage sites.
- Further, the unnecessary construction of a new Whitewater Stadium will be detrimental to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games' capacity to meet contractual obligations to operate as 'climate positive'.
- The Redlands community has long battled to protect the extensive natural, Indigenous cultural, and European heritage of the Birkdale site, including Willards Farm and the US Army-built World War II Radio Receiving Station.

I believe these values should take precedence over an Olympic venue and that the Birkdale land should become **the 'Redlands Wild Koala Refuge & Cultural Heritage Precinct', a destination which will bring domestic and international tourists to the Redlands before, during and long after the 2032 Olympic Games.**

Redland City Council you will have 2032 Olympic Games, but will you still have koalas in 2032? Your iconic koalas are invaluable! For we tourists from overseas, the Olympics in

Brisbane mean only with healthy koalas in the wild! We tourist from overseas don't want to see koalas in zoos or toys koalas in tourist shops!

You don't have history, you don't have ancient monuments, you don't have the Colosseum, you don't have unique cities in the world like Rome, Venice or Florence, Matera but you have the lucky to HAVE KOALAS and unique nature and wildlife! So don't destroy the unique heritage you have! Save and protect your natural and wildlife heritage.

Do the right thing please because the history will judge you.

I thank you for considering my opposition submission.

The world is watching.!

Yours sincerely.

Maria Paola Torti

Italy