



## **EAST BRISBANE STATE SCHOOL P&C**

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### **Supplementary Submission to Senate Inquiry into Australia's preparedness to host the Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games**

**East Brisbane State School Parent and Citizens (P&C) Association Olympic Impact Group**

**16 August 2023**

**Supplement to previous submission dated 22 April 2023**

#### **Who we are**

East Brisbane State School (EBSS) is the only public primary school for East Brisbane, Kangaroo Point and Woolloongabba, and is located adjacent to the Gabba stadium.

We are a vibrant, diverse school community for over 300 primary-aged students and their families. EBSS has had a growing population in recent years, in line with the growth in school-aged children in the local area<sup>1</sup>.

EBSS has a proud tradition, with its current site having been used as a primary school since 1899. The site is on the Queensland Heritage Register.

EBSS is well-supported by parents and the local community, including an active Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association. In order to respond to the growing parent and community concerns regarding the Gabba stadium, the EBSS P&C has formed a subcommittee, the Olympic Impact Group. This submission is made on behalf of the P&C Olympic Impact Group.

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<sup>1</sup> Growth in student population data is taken from the Education Queensland website. East Brisbane State School | Department of Education (eq.edu.au)

## **Updated Information in Response to Terms of Reference**

- h) 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.**

### *School relocation*

East Brisbane State School (EBSS) is directly adjacent to the Gabba stadium. As a part of the Queensland government's decision to rebuild the Gabba for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Queensland government has decided to remove EBSS from its current site.

The Queensland Government recently announced that EBSS will be co-located with Coorparoo Secondary College. The Queensland Government also released their consultation report into the options for EBSS, which shows that only 27.6 % of the local community agreed that the option chosen by the government would meet the needs of the community. A current petition on the Queensland Parliamentary website entitled 'Save East Brisbane State School' has over 2000 signatures.

The Queensland government has yet to provide the community with any details of how it intends to address any parent concerns regarding EBSS moving to Coorparoo.

### *Stadium Rebuild*

On 2 August 2023, Deputy Premier Miles released some simple diagrams outlining the options that the Queensland government had considered for the Gabba stadium.

On this matter, there are two points that warrant further consideration by the Senate.

The design concept is for an elevated playing surface, raising the prospect that the future stadium will be a far more imposing structure compared to the existing building, despite having only a few thousand extra seats. This raises concerns in our community about how this stadium will be integrated sympathetically with the adjacent heritage-listed school site.

Also in considering the impact of the Gabba rebuild on the community, it is appropriate to consider the impact that the rebuild will have on climate change. Many cities in Queensland are built on natural flood plain areas, and the impact of increased extremes of weather can not be ignored.

In committing to hosting the Olympic Games, the Queensland Government pledged to

*“implement best-practice industry standards in the planning, design and delivery of resilient, resource efficient, climate-positive and inclusive Games infrastructure”<sup>2</sup>*

In looking at the diagrams released by the Deputy Premier, there were various options for partial demolition and reconstruction of the stadium and the option to demolish and rebuild the entire structure, the state government has chosen the latter option. A paragraph next to the preferred design states–

*“Design will aim to reuse, recondition or recycle as much of the existing material of the Gabba as possible and be as materially efficient as feasible to reduce reliance on additional materials and resources to achieve sustainability objectives”<sup>3</sup>*

The Queensland Government has decided to completely demolish one large concrete stadium and replace it with another large concrete stadium. We find it difficult to conceptualise how this is seen as being resource-efficient, or in line with the sustainability objectives of a climate-positive Olympics. It is difficult to ascertain from any of the information released by the Queensland government how any substantial portion of the existing stadium will be reused without significant remanufacturing processes.

The Queensland Government’s inclusion of the above vague statement about sustainability objectives seems to be a blatant attempt to obscure the environmental impact of this project. Governments should be held to the highest possible standards of integrity in making environmental claims and the Queensland government’s vague assurances are not in line with community expectations.

### **Recommendations:**

The East Brisbane State School Parents and Citizens (EBSS P&C) Association respectfully asks that, in addition to our previous recommendations, the Senate consider making the following recommendations:

- The Queensland Government be asked to present a meaningful analysis of the environmental impact of the entire Gabba stadium demolition and rebuild from the present moment, including quantifying how it intends to minimize the environmental impact of the stadium rebuild to achieve its sustainability goals.
- The Queensland Government be asked to explain how the new stadium will be integrated into the surrounding area, sympathetically to the surrounding heritage.

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<sup>2</sup> IOC Future Host Commission Questionnaire Response - May 2021. Accessed August 2023 from [Brisbane 2032 \(olympics.com\)](https://olympics.com)

<sup>3</sup> From the Courier Mail online – Accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.

## **Contact Details**

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