



SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT REFERENCES COMMITTEE

Over the course of the submission period for the *Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games* inquiry, the committee received approximately 139 submissions from a campaign run by Redlands 2030.

It was agreed by the committee that a typical example of the form letter, available below, would be published as example.

The committee thanks participants for their contribution to the inquiry.

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee (Senate)
Australia's preparedness to host Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games

I reject the entire concept of an Olympic Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility in Redland City.
My opposition is based on the following:

1. I am vehemently opposed to this expenditure of \$100 million on facilities for a niche sport in the face of other urgent priorities:
 - Community homelessness and poverty in the current economic climate.
 - Major shortfalls in core infrastructure in the Redlands and beyond as population continues to grow rapidly.
2. I am alarmed at the reckless actions of the Redland City Council in committing to the ongoing ownership of the Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility when there is no business case apparent.
 - This is in spite of undertakings made to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that such a strong business case was the basis of the decision to proceed.
 - Providing a Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility for Australia and beyond is not the core business of a municipal council. Ongoing management of the Centre will become a distraction given the anticipated high cost of ownership based on other similar centres.
 - I have no confidence that the Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility will be profitable, given the financial track record of the last six Olympic Whitewater venues – three of which are abandoned while three are running in the red.
 - The Sydney Olympic 2000 Stadium owned by Penrith City Council has struggled with profitability in a capital city with a much larger population than Brisbane; accordingly ownership will be transferred to the NSW Government in July this year.
3. Community support for the wider Birkdale Community Precinct is wrongly being construed as support for a Whitewater facility.
 - Community consultation was constrained by a survey format, and was launched after undertakings were already contracted for an Olympic Whitewater facility.
 - Results were published to show support for the Olympic Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility when in fact it was not a strongly supported element of the larger Birkdale Community Precinct.
 - It appears community support for Whitewater has been misrepresented.
4. I have great concern about the environmental impact of a Whitewater facility.
 - The Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility is the largest single element with the greatest environmental impact of the proposed BCP attractions.
 - It will require significant energy and have a large carbon footprint both during construction and in ongoing costs.
 - It will have the smallest practical value to the Redland City residents.
 - It will impact on the closely surrounding core Koala habitat.

Accordingly, I reject the entire concept of an Olympic Whitewater/ Resilience Training Facility in Redland City.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.