

Submission to Inquiry: Australia's preparedness to host
Commonwealth, Olympic and Paralympic Games

Hi,

I am a local resident of the Woolloongabba 'gabba' community and am writing to express my concerns about the impact of the Olympics on the community. Furthermore, as a taxpayer I am concerned that we will likely to foot the bill for such an event, so want to ensure we are getting value for money.

I do not support the proposed rebuild of the Gabba stadium for the Olympics as it does not appear to me to be a wise investment for the \$2.7 billion estimated price.

Surely there are other less expensive alternatives for an event that runs for such a short period of time. I feel that the Olympics is moving further away from being an in-person spectator sport and moving more towards a media event. We just need to look at the Tokyo Olympics which was a non-event for spectators due to COVID, and the financial losses sustained. The risk will be there for the Brisbane Olympics as well.

As a local of the Gabba community, I do not support the rebuild of the Gabba stadium and the removal of a local state school. The existing Gabba can be brought up to excellent, modern standards, including disability access, for a fraction of the price without needing to be demolished and incur all the disruptions that would result. If the Gabba is the main stadium, surely that does not mean that the athletics needs to be at the same stadium, but rather the Gabba can host other events. I think decentralising the events into the greater Brisbane area, including Gold and Sunshine Coasts would be prudent. This will help alleviate traffic issues in the Gabba, and help reduce pressure on local house prices and rents.

I further do not agree with taking over the local public park 'Raymond Park' for an athletics warm up track. There is a large mostly unused block of land on the corner of Ipswich Road and Henry street in Woolloongabba that could be used for this if necessary, or alternatively use the undeveloped cross river rail site. If insisting on building a new stadium, surely it would be cheaper to build it on the cross river rail site or anywhere else and leave the existing Gabba stadium alone. Other possible sites include the horse race tracks at Ascot and Doomben, or the vast industrial tracts of land around Eagle Farm, Pinkenba and the Airport.

Thanks for taking the time to read about my concerns.