



Recognising and upholding excellence in local

Mail: PO Box 105
Coolum Beach QLD 4573
Mobile: 0433 214 320
Email: mail@oscar.org.au

10 January 2025

OSCAR RESPONSE TO THE 100 DAY REVIEW OF THE 2032 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

This email has been sent by the Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc (OSCAR).

The Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit umbrella/peak organisation covering resident and community organisations on the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Local Government Areas (LGAs) in South East Queensland.

OSCAR currently has over 35 member groups from the Pumicestone Passage to Noosa and from the Coast to the hinterland and ranges with these organisations having collectively over several thousand engaged and community minded members

The OSCAR overarching Vision states: *"The residents of this region enjoy being part of a connected and engaged community living in an area of outstanding natural beauty. They recognise that they are custodians of the unique and abundant biodiversity, beaches and green spaces of the region."*

OSCAR aims to support member organisations by:

- 1 Advocating to local and state government and the public on policy issues that are of regional significance and of concern to our members;
- 2 Acting to resolve issues of strategic or region-wide relevance that are referred by member organisations;
- 3 Representing the member organisations on region-wide matters of interest to the community;
- 4 Maintaining awareness and responsiveness through frequent and regular ordinary meetings and dialogue with member organisations; and
- 5 Practising professional, honest and ethical conduct.

Context for this submission

The primary objectives of this 100-day review are to:

- **Assess infrastructure demand alignment:** Confirm that infrastructure projects are strategically chosen based on demand, ensuring they are located in the right places to meet the needs of the Games and support Queensland's long-term legacy outcomes.
- **Assess connectivity and integration:** Evaluate the interconnectivity of venues, transport systems, athlete's villages and precincts within the infrastructure network including the need to facilitate access during the Games and promote long-term mobility solutions.
- **Evaluate affordability:** Examine all proposed infrastructure investments for their economic viability and value for money. This includes ensuring investments within the venues program remain within the agreed \$7.1 billion funding envelope from the State and Australian governments, and other investments for athlete's villages and transport infrastructure meet legacy and Games needs.
- **Evaluate deliverability:** Assess the feasibility of completing infrastructure projects on time and within budget, considering resource availability, Olympic Host Contract and Games commitments and other risk factors. This includes reviewing infrastructure procurement, staging strategy and delivery models, including those that involve private investment, and evaluating industry capacity.
- **Identify priority projects:** Identify critical infrastructure investments that are essential for both Games-time needs and long-term growth for Queensland, while recommending opportunities for cost savings across the venues program.
- **Maximise long-term benefits:** Ensure that infrastructure investments support regional economic development and align with broader strategies, including tourism, and deliver lasting community benefits such as increased housing and improved public amenities.
- **Assess Games governance:** Evaluate the current governance arrangements for the Games and recommend any changes that are considered to increase the likelihood for successful delivery of the Games, including the infrastructure required, and to reduce the overall cost and risk in delivering the Games.

Introduction

OSCAR and its member groups understand the importance of the proposed objectives of the 100 Day Review. We are also very concerned that the arguing has to cease and that a focussed program is developed and implemented. Such a program should have the above elements as expressed in the Objectives. That is:

- Infrastructure demand alignment
- Connectivity and integration
- Affordability
- Deliverability
- Priority projects with long-term benefits
- Maximise long-term benefits
- Evaluate current Governance arrangements

However, while taking the above into account it is important to remember the rationale on which the application and nomination of SE Queensland as the venue for the Games was made must be recognised, acknowledged and a major focus of the Review. As the 2 of the last 3 Objectives state:

Maximise long-term benefits: Ensure that infrastructure investments support regional economic development and align with broader strategies, including tourism, and deliver lasting community benefits such as increased housing and improved public amenities.

Identify priority projects: Identify critical infrastructure investments that are essential for both Games-time needs and long-term growth for Queensland, while recommending opportunities for cost savings across the venues program.

The communities of the Sunshine Coast and other SEQ locations, proposed a SEQ Games for precisely these reasons above and the Sunshine Coast is only seeking “its fair share” of the benefits of the 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

If there is not support from the general community then the games will not achieve its purpose as proposed by the SEQ Council of Mayors. It is hoped that this 100 Day Review confirms both the venues and the necessary infrastructure required for the events proposed for the Sunshine Coast.

OSCAR feels very strongly about the issues of equity in the allocation of Venues and infrastructure in relation to the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games:

- If the Stadium isn't built as big and as bold as we can get — then we lose out
- If the marathon were transferred to Gold Coast — as has been discussed — we lose out big time — we don't want to 'swap' the marathon for a tri at Noosa — as has been suggested by Tom Tate!
- If there is no Convention Centre — for the basketball prelims — in the CBD — Then why do we need rail to Maroochydhore?
- But if we need practice courts for the basketball — then why not at Sippy downs as you suggested?
- For the Mountain biking — let's make sure we get a permanent 'village' at Parklands — so mountain biking there becomes a permanent tourist attraction. — Part of the Blue Heart — And let's have a dedicated bike corridor from Nambour to Parklands for the Olympic visitors — and forever.
- For the kite boarding — let's enhance the Coastal Pathway to provide spectacular vantage points for what will be a spectacular event.
- For the road biking through the hinterland — how do we provide some spectacular vantage points in what will be a spectacular backdrop? (Mini Tour de France?)
- There will be swim teams coming to the Games which will need suitable pre-games venues — how does Sunshine Coast get some of them.
- If there are other sports that other areas don't want — then let's find a venue for them here

As an OSCAR member commented:

If we don't get our fair share (or more) of the venues and venue funding — then why do we need transport legacies? — why do we need housing legacies — why do we need a satellite Olympic Village?

After all, Sunshine Coast has at least 25% of the SEQ population — and growing fast. Are we getting 25% of the Olympic Venue action? — I don't think so!

OSCAR is concerned that the events proposed for the Sunshine Coast, the Sunshine Coast Stadium, the Sunshine Coast Indoor Sports Centre, the Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre may be jeopardised by the delays and the arguing in general. Already we have seen funding paused for the improvements of the SC Stadium that had already commenced.

Associated with the venues proposed at Parklands near Nambour and Kawana are significant and long overdue infrastructure identified in the:

1. Transport and Mobility Strategy.

However as reported in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Bill November 2024:

The BOPGA Act Explanatory Notes (p6) provides that the Authority must make a transport and mobility strategy and a games coordination plan and must enter into a funding agreement with the State within specific timeframes following establishment. Almost six months has passed since the commencement of the BOPGA Amendment Act and concerns have been raised by the Authority with meeting current legislated timeframes due to the delay to appointing a board. The Bill removes the timeframe requirements on the Authority to prepare a transport and mobility strategy and a games coordination plan, and to enter in a funding agreement to allow the Authority to make these documents when appropriate with a focus on successful Games delivery.

OSCAR does **NOT** support removing the need for development and publication of a Transport and Mobility Strategy. We ask – how will the SC community identify any long-term benefits for the LGA if such a strategy is not provided.

Surely the fact that the Minister has been legislated the power to appoint the Board of the Authority, then it would be reasonable to expect the strategy to be completed within the coming 12 months!

For example the Sunshine Coast Community expects the following from a Transport and Mobility Strategy as identified in our submission to the May 2024 then Proposed Amendment Bill.

There are several events nominated for the Sunshine Coast, located in areas where considerable upgrading of existing infrastructure and development of new infrastructure will be required. However, the North Coast rail upgrades Stage 1 Beerburrum to Beerwah was mentioned in the media in mid-2024 in the Sunshine Coast Daily that costs had doubled to more than \$1billion. Planning for route straightening and duplications of sections (to enable long freight trains to be side tracked for passenger trains to pass) is continuing for Stage 2 to Nambour (but not including Yandina).

The only project with financial commitment remains the Direct Rail but only as far as Caloundra. The Mooloolah River Interchange projects continue to have no funding commitment, and these are necessary for many major road, rail and public transport projects to proceed.

Not only will the success of the games be measured in terms of economics, participation, social and cultural activities, but importantly access, availability of public transport, accessibility of venues, time taken to travel to venues and cost of transport. OSCAR sees that there is potential for achievements in this area, but are concerned that what can be delivered will be a disappointment to participants, visitors and the community.

(OSCAR submission May 2024 (p6))

Maximise long-term benefits: Ensure that infrastructure investments support regional economic development and align with broader strategies, including tourism, and deliver lasting community benefits such as increased housing and improved public amenities.

2. Maximise the legacies and benefits of the Games

Whilst big ticket items such as the Rail Connection and Stadium have attracted attention to date, there seems to have been limited if any discussion about the other potential 'Legacies'? Although Elevate 2042 does make specific reference to advancement of the Blue Heart project at P.43

Other legacy projects that OSCAR seeks to advance on the Sunshine Coast include:

1. Housing benefits from the prior and consequential deployment of the Games Village in Maroochydore for a diversity of social, community and affordable housing purposes, including universal design principles to provide flexibility of use for our disabled and ageing population
2. Transport legacies such as:
 - Vastly improved bus services including significant bus priority facilities and particularly in relation to adequate and efficient bus access and terminus facilities at the Kawana Stadium and adjacent Alexandra Headlands associated with satellite parking.
 - The Sunshine Coast and Noosa regions need massive improvements in the routes, frequencies and speed of the bus network across the entire region, and building a fleet of buses of different sizes to serve the Games offers a potentially cheaper and longer lasting benefit than some big ticket fixed transport infrastructure such as the proposed coastal mass transit system.
 - Urgent completion of the rail duplication, track straightening and "passing tracks" to Nambour (or even Yandina?) to provide adequate access to the mountain biking at Parklands. That is what is known as the B2N project.
 - Many new and safe cycle ways of proper standard including particularly to and from Parklands mountain biking, Kawana Stadium and Alexandra Headlands
 - Upgrades to local roads leading to and adjacent to Games facilities including Nicklin Way, the Motorway, Coolum Yandina Rd, Yandina Bli Bli Rd, etc
3. Environmental legacy enhancements such as:
 - Extensive tree planting to 'green' our Coast.
 - Integration of the Parklands facility with the adjacent Blue Heart environmental improvement and decarbonisation initiatives (See Elevate 2042 P.43.)
 - Measures to reduce the propensity for waste dumping in bushland and creeks as contribution to improving our circular waste cycle.
 - Cleaning up our waterways with particular focus on the Maroochy and Noosa Rivers and estuaries
4. Economic legacy improvements by focussing on key projects to improve the Coast's tourist appeal both during the Games and for the longer term.
5. Indigenous legacy such as pursuing wider appreciation of local cultural places of significance eg. Mt Coolum, Mt Ninderry and the Maroochy River.

A number of these legacy projects can be supported and actioned by the Sunshine Coast Community and Sunshine Coast Regional Council, thus engaging the community directly.

It is disappointing that in the Objectives for the Review there is no reference to ***Elevate 2042 – the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Legacy Strategy*** and its implementation. Recently we had notice from a member on one of the Legacy groups that he is thinking of resigning as there is “no planning going on”.

Why and how have we got here and in this state of limbo? What can we do to move on? At ***Parliamentary Committee Hearing on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games arrangements Amendment Bill 2024*** where OSCAR was the only witness we suggested the following:

How do we change the mindset and build support of and engagement in the plans for the 2032 Olympics?

1. Be positive – end the arguments
2. Get on with the job – amend the Bill to ensure transparency, review the regional membership of the authority
3. Relate the business of the Olympics to “Elevate 2042”
4. Increase the focus on sustainability issues – we have only 8 years or less to make a difference!!
5. Develop genuine information and community engagement strategies across several areas of the games – eg sports and teams, legacy groups, the general public, schools, community groups etc. These need to be in stages over the next 8 years but able to be modified. They should also be publicly available.
6. Be transparent and accountable

The Final Objective of the Review

• ***Assess Games governance: Evaluate the current governance arrangements for the Games and recommend any changes that are considered to increase the likelihood for successful delivery of the Games, including the infrastructure required, and to reduce the overall cost and risk in delivering the Games.***

OSCAR has a passion for transparency and effective governance and is one of our key objectives in our Vision and Mission Statements. OSCAR flagged several important governance issues with the parliamentary review committee for the May 2024 Olympics Amendment Bill and many of these were ignored by the previous government. We encourage the current LNP government to revisit the points we made in our submission and presentation (attached). Following established due process, effective community engagement and respecting the important role of Local Government is the basis of our transparent, accountable, three level democratic government.

Games Venue and Legacy Authority Powers (the page numbers referred to in this section on Governance refer to the Explanatory pages of the: BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL, May 2024 Public Inquiry by the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee.

i) Powers to Direct – (p6)

Proposed new clause 53AL provides a power for the authority to give a government agency (other than a Commonwealth government agency) or a local government a direction to take stated actions to provide or maintain critical transport infrastructure that has been identified in the transport and mobility strategy to be made under proposed new section 53AI.

As we don't know what the strategy will contain, how do we know whether our regional council will be lumbered with complex and expensive transport infrastructure liabilities that they and their ratepayers do not want or cannot afford? OSCAR is concerned the potential for "cost shifting" to Local Governments.

ii) Powers relating to planning decisions – (p8/9)

a) Proposed new section 53AR permits the authority to give a person a written notice requiring them to give the authority information, documents or assistance the authority reasonably requires in relation to planning decisions about venues or villages.

It is argued that: *Given the authority's functions, it is the appropriate entity to be empowered to seek information about relevant planning approval processes. Before directing a person to provide information, the authority must firstly be satisfied that exercising the directions power is necessary to facilitate efficient and timely decision making.* (p8)

OSCAR is concerned that there has already been autocratic and flawed planning decision-making by the State that it has had to withdraw following community opposition and cost issues e.g. redevelopment of the Gabba and closing a school to make way for Games development. To enable the Authority to intervene in normal planning processes creates a risk that further ill-advised planning and/or unacceptable development impacts will continue.

b) Proposed new section 53AS provides that a regulation may declare development for a venue or village to be *accepted development* under the Planning Act 2016 (Planning Act) or Priority Development Area (PDA) *accepted development* under the Economic Development Act 2012 (ED Act). The justification is stated as: *It is essential that infrastructure is delivered on time for the hosting of a successful games and in order to comply with the host contract. This imperative may make it necessary for the authority to be able to use streamlined development processes where an existing process would threaten the timely delivery of a venue or village.* (P9)

c) OSCAR is concerned that:

- This is the latest version of the perceived need to cut red and green tape and streamlining of development decisions!
- This could potentially encompass anything associated with developing and servicing "venues and villages" such as related forms of transport infrastructure; power, water, sewerage, drainage and telecommunications infrastructure; vegetation/habitat clearing; resuming parkland, sports fields and other public and private open space
- "accepted development" represents an as of right development approval. It requires no development application or public notification and no court appeal rights exist.

- Given we don't know how well "venues and villages"" and "critical transport infrastructure" will be defined and how widely these and any related development might be interpreted, there is too much scope for many forms of development to be approved quietly with minimal scrutiny and accountability.
- the argument that this power is qualified by requiring the Minister to consider the need for such a declaration is not an acceptable check on excessive use and abuse of this power. We regularly see Ministerial interventions under the Planning and E.D. Acts, and the pressure to get the Games delivered will trump other normal planning and development procedural processes.

d) Review rights

The proposed legislation provides that a part 4 decision of the Minister or authority (for development of the venues and villages) to be final and conclusive and not subject to challenge or appeal, under the Judicial Review Act 1991 or otherwise.

The justification is stated as: *It is necessary that there be certainty about whether development of a venue or village is able to proceed and limiting review rights is the only way to ensure that the relevant decisions are final and will allow venues and villages to be delivered in time for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.* (p10)

OSCAR is concerned that:

- In the rush to get the Games projects started and completed there will be ample scope for poor planning and development decisions. If the normal judicial review and P & E Court appeal mechanisms are not possible, there will be no way to avoid, minimise or mitigate poor decisions.
- We are sure how to maintain appropriate court review processes without imposing unjustifiable or lengthy delays on the Authority. We ask - could amendments be made via this Bill to the Judicial review and Planning and Environment Court legislation or regulations to ensure the courts urgently hear and decide actions against the proposed or actual decisions of the Authority?

e) Compulsory acquisition – Page 10

There is a proposed new section 53AU provides that a regulation may declare land to be acquisition land for the Games – several Games delivery imperative obligations are cited for this power, which may make it necessary for the authority to use statutory mechanisms to acquire land where it is not able to achieve that purpose by agreement or under existing legislative powers. It is argued that the power is qualified by the need for the Minister to consider the need for compulsory acquisition and consultation with the Coordinator General.

OSCAR is concerned that:

- This could include private landholdings and also public land owned by Councils or public water and sewerage utilities.
- there might well be poor planning and development decisions made by the Authority and State agencies in the rush to get Games venues, villages , transport and other related development started and completed. This creates the risk that inappropriate and unfair land acquisitions are proposed, which disadvantage the affected private or public landowner.
- the ability of affected landholders to oppose the acquisition or the terms of the acquisition will be far weaker than normal acquisition situations given the so called

Games imperatives that will influence decisions by the Authority, the Minister and the Coordinator General.

- We do not know how the potential for misuse, abuse and unfair compulsory acquisitions can be avoided, minimised or mitigated. Could some kind of appeal mechanism such as an independent panel of suitably qualified persons capable of reviewing the need for the acquisition and the terms being offered be established?

f) Appointment to the Board of Directors of the Authority

- The Authority is to have 7 directors nominated by a Selection Panel of senior bureaucrats. We understand the Sunshine Coast Regional Council CEO is on the Selection Panel for the 7 member board of the Authority.
- To mitigate against the potential for a Brisbane bias OSCAR would like to have added to S.53BF(1) a requirement that at least one of the directors must be a person who is a permanent resident of Sunshine Coast and who is charged with taking a particular interest in seeing that Sunshine Coast venues and legacies are properly resourced and pursued and adequate consultation processes followed.

Note: We note and acknowledge the amendment of November 2024 to include a regional representative on the Authority. However we are extremely disappointed in the change to the legislation that legislates that the relevant Minister appoints the Authority Board. Regardless of which political party is in Government such a move immediately politicises the process, undermining community confidence and support and particularly given the name change (Nov 2024) of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority to the Games **Independent** Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (Authority).

We feel that the relevant Minister could have applied pressure and imposed a timeframe for the selection process to be completed.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the 100 Day Review. As a community organisation (Peak Body), we look forward to working with the government on this opportunities the 2032 Olympic and Paralympics Games offer Queensland regions. The government must include the community on this journey.

Yours sincerely,



Melva Hobson PSM
President Organisation Sunshine Coast Association of Residents Inc. (OSCAR)

