



COMMITTEE FOR BRISBANE

Olympics Legacy Sub-committee (discussion paper)

1. The purpose of the Committee for Brisbane Olympics Legacy Sub-committee

Note: the Committee for Brisbane's Vision is: *Greater Brisbane as the world's greatest and most liveable place.*

At the Committee for Brisbane's 10 March event this year, "Brisbane 2033: Planning a post-Olympics legacy", CEO Barton Green asked: *If we have 12 years to plan for the future south east Queensland – benefitting from the accelerated investment from an Olympic and Paralympic Games – what "better region" can we deliver?*

At the event, keynote speaker Gordon Price (former Director of the City Program at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada; Fellow with the SFU Centre for Dialogue) asked: *What is the world going to want to hear from Brisbane?*

Panellist Stephen Yarwood recommended: *Build cities that embrace diversity, and listen to young people.*

Some statistics

- By 2027, Brisbane is projected to be home to 51% of the Queensland population.
- By 2035, Brisbane's population is predicted to reach almost 2.9 million.
- By 2045, south east Queensland may be home to about 5.4 million people (an extra 1.9 million people over the next 25 years).
- In 2032, today's 18-year old will be 30.

World rankings

- On the Global Liveability Rankings (Economist Intelligence Unit), Brisbane ranks around 16 – 18. Melbourne ranks 1 – 2), Adelaide and Perth rank higher than Brisbane.
- The 2017 Sustainable Cities Mobility Index (Arcadis) ranked Brisbane at 48 (the highest ranked Australian city, but well down the list).
- On the 2019 Quality of Living Ranking (Mercer), Brisbane came in at 35 (up two places from 2018) and was the highest ranked Australian city.

Question 1

Could the purpose of the Committee for Brisbane Olympics Legacy Sub-committee be:

- To inform and influence government decision-making about beneficial social and public infrastructure for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to help deliver the legacy of greater Brisbane as the world's most liveable place.
- Does "...beneficial social and public infrastructure..." accommodate the challenges of population growth (as projected above)?

- Does the objective of “...greater Brisbane as the world’s most liveable place” provide the scope to move the city up the global rankings (if that is important)?

2. A framework to direct/inform legacy planning

At the 10 March CFB event, the keynote speaker and three panellists shared their thoughts on legacy.

Gordon Price’s key learnings about the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics were:

- Leverage what you have: utilise existing strategic plans and goals – follow through on what you said you were going to do.
- Connect plans to outcomes – know what you want, do it, measure it and learn from the outcomes.
- Have something to showcase – as was the case in Expo ‘88.
- Demonstrate good results. Collect data before and after the Games to measure performance and share with the world.
- Build one big team.

Emma Thomas (Partner, Infrastructure and Urban Renewal, at PwC Australia) noted that contributions to the success of the 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games included:

- Continuity of governance.
- Harmony between levels of government, guided by a vision and long-term goals.
- The Games were a catalyst, the real success was about building a society: *Great vision with a narrative is core for making good decisions. Everyone gets what you’re trying to achieve.*

Dr Nicole Kalms (Associate Professor, Monash University Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture) noted:

- Embed diverse groups into the decision-making process throughout every stage, eg a co-design process involving women, men, children, elderly people, the LGBTIQ community, able and disabled, people from English and non-English speaking backgrounds and others.

Stephen Yarwood (futurist and former Lord Mayor of Adelaide) recommended:

- Think about urban operating systems, not the built environment, to plan for the future. By 2033:
 - Mobile phones will be smarter than us.
 - Mobility will be seen as a service (pay a fare to use autonomous vehicles and scooters; earn credits for walking).
 - Electrification of cities will occur (banning internal combustion engines, and re-engineering transport).
 - The sky will be a transport corridor for drones.
 - Public space will be valued and used differently.
 - Lighting will be a “thing” with LED lighting and HD screens commonplace.
 - Facial recognition will increase and gamification will be a dominant industry.
 - Responsiveness to sustainability and environmental considerations will be rewarded and financially driven by a need to be more responsible with resources.

Question Two

Can we use the planning framework of “back casting” to firstly agree on a description of “greater Brisbane 2033” (this would be the all-important **Vision**, as referenced by Emma Thomas and Gordon Price), then step back sequentially to identify the preceding planning and funding steps required to achieve success?

Could a Vision be developed from these ideas, for example:

- CFB is working on a Creative Brisbane Vision that will focus on, grow and promote our vibrant creative sectors, including visual and performing arts, gaming and technology, design and architecture, and education. The Creative Brisbane Vision will likely include reference to start-up and scale-up businesses and how to capture a good proportion of that global market. It will talk about public realm and events and festivals as part of our outdoor lifestyle.

Could “creativity” be the cornerstone of the city’s identity (reputation) and the lens through which legacy planning is viewed?

- One suggestion from a Sub-committee member (which was posed as a question at the 10 March event) is: could Brisbane/SEQ host a Zero Carbon Olympics (possibly via a competition between nations and businesses)?

Could such an idea form part of the planning framework and be one of the things “...*the world is going to hear from Brisbane*”, as Gordon Price suggested, ie Brisbane as a Zero Carbon City or a Carbon Positive City (or taking steps to be one)?

Wherever we land, the Vision and the planning framework should be the “guidebook” against which ideas, projects and recommendations are assessed.

3. Key drivers to direct/inform legacy planning

Gordon Price said:

- Brisbane will need an innovative sell pitch that responds to environmental issues to appeal to the younger generations.
- Reflecting on the learnings from Vancouver, everything that was built had a long-term use that enhanced the overall sustainability of the Olympics.
- Vancouver did not set out to wow the world with architectural masterpieces, but constructed and designed purpose-built facilities that could be transformed or repurposed, post-Games.

Question Three

(Building on point 2) should the Vision, and each legacy project/proposal, be “tested” against a checklist of desired outcomes?

(For example, the CFB Recovery Strategy Group that was established in response to COVID-19 developed a framework (in conjunction with PwC) to guide its thinking and decision-making:

1. *Will the idea/recommendation/strategy:*

- *Provide an economic stimulus to greater Brisbane? If so, how (eg improving consumer confidence) and when?*
- *Deliver productivity enabling infrastructure? To which sectors of the economy/community and where?*
- *Support an economic response to the circular economy and/or climate change and help set up the greater Brisbane economy for the future? If so, how and where?*

2. *What are the regulatory/legislative responses required to support the idea/recommendation/strategy?*
3. *What are the themes that could underpin a post-COVID “Brand Brisbane” (ie what can Brisbane be famous for?)*
4. *How will the idea/recommendation/strategy support the “Brand Brisbane” themes and Brisbane’s reputation as a place to invest and/or conduct business?)*

Taking into account the Committee for Brisbane’s four key areas of activity:

1. Connectivity (infrastructure and data)
2. Innovation and entrepreneurship
3. Arts and culture and outdoor lifestyle, and
4. Equitable Brisbane (access, safety, affordability)

should the Vision and legacy projects/proposals:

- Facilitate the beneficial use of technology and data to improve the lives and experiences of SEQ citizens and visitors?
- Ensure the region has the digital capability to embrace all on-line opportunities for education, commerce and social engagement?
- Facilitate the (2032-contemporary) mobility requirements and public and private transport networks that will be necessary to sustain and expand the regional economy and connect population centres?
- Incorporate processes or principles to identify and encourage new industries and employment opportunities (the jobs of the future)?
- Accommodate agile working arrangements, ie work-from-home flexibility; staggered hours; suburban population/employment nodes?
- Reimagine the city centre as a pedestrians-first, shady and visitor friendly CBD that supports commercial and retail activity?
- Acknowledge and embrace Brisbane’s arts and culture sector (as per the Creative Brisbane Vision)?
- Develop standards and principles to expand and connect public open spaces, particularly green spaces?
- Describe/codify “principles of placemaking” to drive better planning outcomes that value people/community above form and function?
- Improve the inclusion of First Nations people in society, education and business; and provide proper recognition of their lands?
- Lead to improved participation of people with physical and mental disabilities in society?
- Lead to improved safety of girls and women in public places?
- Contribute to the end of homelessness?
- Describe the community’s expectations for an adequate mix and appropriate numbers of social and affordable housing, to provide equitable access for all citizens?
- Contribute to the region’s long-term environmental sustainability, including responding to climate change and embedding circular economy principles?
- Describe minimum air and water quality standards for the region?
- Demand standards of governance and collaborative decision-making?