

Opinion Piece

January 2025

The 100 Day Review: More Than an Infrastructure Exercise

Queenslanders have until midnight tonight to have their say on infrastructure and planning for the Brisbane 2032 Games- and I am hoping that many individuals, organisations and institutions will take the opportunity to do so.

Unlike previous strategies and reviews, the terms of reference for the current 100 Day Review have not explicitly ruled anything out. The independent review panel will consider, but not be limited by, previous planning work. All venues and infrastructure are under review, allowing Queenslanders to bring forward new ideas and genuinely have their voice heard.

The sad reason this is so important, is the public narrative regarding this once-in-a-lifetime event has been lost. Progress has been stilted, decisions have been made and changed, and summarily, trust has been left wanting.

No one can deny that sands have shifted since the height of COVID when the bid was won, nor that some of the proposed venues and delivery options have since emerged as unfeasible. People accept that circumstances change and decisions need to be made.

However, without a bipartisan approach to delivery, it's understandable the community remains sceptical about the legacy that will be delivered post-2032.

Aside from the very important investment decisions and planning outcomes the 100 Day Review will shape, it must also provide a 'reset' for the broader community to once again engage with- and be excited by- the Games. The inclusion of Games Governance in the 100 Day Review terms of reference is central to this.

From ideation, the Council of Mayors (SEQ)'s bid for the 2032 Games was all about infrastructure, planning for population growth, and broadening economic opportunities for the region. It was about local people benefiting from new investment and a platform for all levels of government to band together with a laser-like focus on a fixed delivery timeframe.

What seems to be forgotten by many, is that the Games represents a \$7.1 billion injection in infrastructure this state would otherwise not have seen. It is time we move on from the naysaying and collectively focus on how best to leverage that investment for the long-term benefit of the state.



For the Committee for Brisbane, this means bringing forward regional transport infrastructure; a solution for replacing the Gabba stadium; investing in digital infrastructure projects and smart, resilient design; focusing on precincts and placemaking; utilising private capital to stretch those public dollars further; and most of all, bold decision-making that will serve the community for generations to come.

Comments are attributable to:

Jen Williams

Chief Executive Officer

Committee for Brisbane