

Opinion Piece

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When Brisbane Succeeds, Queensland Succeeds

For the first time since 1978, this year, the population of Greater Brisbane is expected to surpass that of the balance of Queensland- if it hasn't already. Factoring in the broader city-region, the population split of the south-east corner and the rest of the state is more like 70/30.

That's a lot of people- and a lot of voters- living and working in a relatively small proportion of our very large state.

Most capital cities across the nation, and indeed the globe, are celebrated as the seat of parliament and home to major hospitals, commerce, schools, sporting, cultural and entertainment venues.

And yet here in Queensland, despite the statistics, Brisbane can barely be mentioned in the public realm without the need to first apologise for taking the focus off the regions.

Yes, the health and success of Queensland's regional towns and cities is vital. They are central to our identity as a state that has it all- from the coast to the outback and the forest to the pub. Whatever you're looking for, Queensland has it covered.

So, while we celebrate the tourism, lifestyle and economic potential of our regions, why is it seemingly so hard to acknowledge the important role our capital city plays in the lives of all Queenslanders?

Set against the backdrop of recent elections, there is no denying the 2032 Delivery Plan took political courage. It has established a bold vision for the Games, restoring excitement amongst local communities, and catalysing an uplift in much-needed infrastructure investment. We are already seeing the social and economic benefits flow, with new housing, sporting infrastructure and business opportunities on foot.

However, with the coming five years shaping to be the most pivotal in Brisbane's recent history, there is a small window in which we must come together as a state to look beyond committed infrastructure projects and truly leverage the gift that is the 2032 Games. And more specifically, what this global event will mean for Brisbane.

'Leveraging' is not code for spending more money. Or simply overservicing Brisbane at the expense of the rest of the state. Opportunities to create a lasting legacy lie in reviewing how existing budgets are allocated, in how policy decisions are made, and



in facilitating opportunities for the public, private and community sectors to work together.

At its core, that bold leadership we saw twelve months ago must be demonstrated again to set a shared vision for how Brisbane will grow and change in the lead up to and beyond 2032.

Whatever the reason for the current paradigm, we need to stop apologising for being the capital city and support bold visions knowing that when Brisbane succeeds, Queensland succeeds.

Comments are attributable to:

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