



Committee Secretary  
Economics and Governance Committee  
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8 November 2021

**Re: Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021**

The Queensland Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. As landscape architects, we have a strong interest in issues and events that impact the environment and communities in where we live.

Firstly, we congratulate the Queensland Government on successfully securing the 2032 Olympics. The Brisbane Olympic Games is already being marketed as the first climate positive summer Olympics.

**Executive Summary:**

To ensure delivery of a climate positive Olympics, we recommend/ request that the Board and committee include a director who is:

- appropriately qualified and experienced in sustainable development with a detailed understanding of these issues including expertise that can contribute to achieving the goal
- a representative from the design profession such as the Queensland State Government Architect

Landscape Architect's play a critical role in creating a sustainable future for communities and the built and natural environment, and as such our work is on the front line of both climate change and climate resilience. Landscape Architects can directly impact climate change through the decisions they make.

Please see our justification below for including the above representatives on the Board of Directors.

**A Climate Positive Olympics**

The Climate Council of Australia has said:

*A 'climate positive' Olympics describes an Olympics that doesn't settle for reducing its emissions to zero and offsetting those emissions it can't avoid (carbon neutral), but goes further to absorb or remove more than it produces to become 'carbon negative' - a synonym for climate positive.*  
(<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/climate-positive-brisbane-olympics-2032/>)

Directly improving and enhancing our environment through landscape issues is one of the easiest ways to contribute to successfully reaching the goal of a climate positive Olympics. As an example, tree planting is one of the simplest and most effective ways of addressing climate change. As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Planting trees in our communities contributes to worldwide efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change.

A recent study 'The global tree restoration potential' (Science, 5 Jul 2019, Vol 365, Issue 6448, pp. 76-79, DOI: 10.1126/science.aax0848) found that the:

*"restoration of trees remains among the most effective strategies for climate change mitigation."*

and:



*"The restoration of forested land at a global scale could help capture atmospheric carbon and mitigate climate change." (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aax0848>)*

For this global event, we believe that it is paramount that the Queensland Government considers its approach to:

- Transparency and accountability in measuring how the Olympics, the Board and the Committee will meet climate positive targets over the next decade
- Connected green public spaces for the post-Olympic and Paralympic future
- Increasing tree canopy cover by planting more trees
- Acknowledging and improving green infrastructure
- No net loss of existing green space (parks) and canopy trees
- Climate positive design for all facilities.

### **Appropriate Expertise**

No doubt the Olympics must set a high standard on the world stage for Brisbane's approach to climate change and address these fundamental initiatives. Therefore, the inclusion of the appropriate expertise on the Board of Directors who understand these issues and can contribute appropriately we believe is of high importance.

As requested above, the committee must include a Director on the Board who has qualifications and experience in sustainable development and a detailed understanding of these issues including expertise that can contribute to achieving the goal of a climate positive Olympics.

We also believe there should be a requirement for representation from the design professions on the Board or Committee such as the Queensland State Government Architect.

It is fundamentally important for the Board and/or Committee to consist of qualified expertise that has detailed knowledge in this area and the opportunity to contribute advice around these important issues for this exciting world class event in Brisbane.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss further, and request that we remain involved in the ongoing development of committees related to the 2032 Olympics. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss, please contact Melanie West, AILA Queensland Chapter Manager on 0417 666 622 or [melanie.west@aila.org.au](mailto:melanie.west@aila.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

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Australian Institute of Landscape Architects