



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority

100DayReview@gvlda.au

Via [online submission portal](#)

10 January 2025

Re: 100 Day Review of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure and planning

Dear Chair,

As Australia's national body for engineering, Engineers Australia is the voice and champion of our 127,000-plus members. We provide them with the resources, connections, and growth they need to do ethical, competent and high-value work in our communities. A mission-based, not-for-profit professional association, Engineers Australia is constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

Engineers play a critical role in planning, designing, building, commissioning, testing, operating and maintaining infrastructure assets throughout Queensland. They bring important insights to deliver the right projects in the right places with the right governance. Engineers will play a critical role in ensuring that the infrastructure and planning that supports a successful Brisbane 2023 Olympic and Paralympic Games also generates lasting economic, social and environmental benefits across the State, and Australia as a whole.

Our submission is enclosed below. Engineers Australia is available to participate in future opportunities to discuss the issues raised in this submission. Please contact Darren Beattie – General Manager, Queensland Division (dbeattie@engineersaustralia.org.au) to continue the discussion.

Sincerely,

Jenny Mitchell

General Manager, Policy and Advocacy

Submission

Engineers Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide advice to the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (the Authority) in response to the 100 Day Review of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure and planning (the Review). Engineers Australia **broadly supports the principles and objectives** outlined in the Review's terms of reference and suggests that engineering expertise will be essential to their delivery. We present nine recommendations to the Authority for consideration.

Recommendations

1. Consider developing new or upgrading existing venues outside of Brisbane and/or Queensland.

The Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (the Games) present an opportunity to showcase a vision that extends beyond Brisbane and Queensland, encompassing all of Australia. The Paris 2024 Games introduced a flexible model with 35 venues spread across Paris, regional French cities, and the French territory of Tahiti. Notably, the opening ceremony was held along the Seine River—the first time such an event occurred outside a stadium—highlighting the creative potential for Olympic venues. Similarly, incorporating regional venues and existing infrastructure across Queensland or Australia could significantly reduce costs, as upgrading current facilities is often more economical than building new ones. At a minimum, this approach would distribute costs between State and Federal Governments while fostering the enhancement or creation of national assets, ensuring the Games deliver benefits across the country.

2. Develop funding pathways for the continued utilisation and maintenance of Olympic venues post-2032.

To avoid or reverse the financial losses often incurred by Olympics host nations, long-term funding pathways should be mapped to ensure that Olympic venues can continue to be maintained and utilised, or converted for alternative uses, following the conclusions of the Games.

3. Prioritise local businesses for procurement related to the Games.

Local engineering and construction businesses should have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the Games, reversing the trend of awarding major contracts to international firms. This shift is essential for fostering local growth, supporting First Nations workers, and retaining expertise and funding within the community. This could also contribute to compensating for the often uncoded losses to small businesses resulting from the disruption caused by megaproject construction.

4. Establish environmental sustainability guidelines for all Games-related and supporting infrastructure.

The Games provide an opportunity to showcase sustainable building practices, advancing environmental goals for both Queensland and Australia. Key sustainability measures could include using a minimum amount of low-carbon building materials to reduce embodied carbon emissions, enhancing public transport connectivity to lower operational carbon emissions, and prioritising modular designs to allow for venue deconstruction or reuse. Venues could also be designed to withstand future climate impacts, such as extreme weather events. Additionally, supporting infrastructure will need a sustainability focus, with upgrades to existing waste and water systems essential to manage the increased demands from the temporary population surge during the Games.

5. Alleviate infrastructure skills shortages through funding education and training and staging Olympic project deployment.

There are significant skills shortages in areas critical to the construction of Olympic infrastructure. These could be alleviated by targeted funding to educate new workers, upskill existing workers, reattracting qualified engineers to the profession who are employed in other sectors and staging projects so that there is minimal overlap between projects that require similar workers.

6. Enhance cross-sectoral collaboration by establishing a coordination body within the Authority.

The success of megaprojects requires the successful coordination of sectors that (at best) exist in silos or (at worst) actively compete with one another. A coordination team should be created to broker knowledge and enhance collaboration between sectors in the lead up to and during the Games. In addition to avoiding duplication (and thus producing cost savings), cross sector collaboration could also enhance the safety and accessibility of the Games through swift information sharing should security threats arise.

7. Use stadium cost benchmarks to assess the cost-benefit of new or upgraded infrastructure.

To ensure cost-effective investments in new or upgraded stadium infrastructure, projected construction costs should be compared with benchmarks from previous Games. This approach can help ensure costs remain reasonable and avoid unintended consequences, such as triggering major transport infrastructure upgrades outside of those that have already been outlined to meet long-term planning objectives.

8. Harmonise existing State and Federal legislation to support efficient and safe construction outcomes.

The recently amended *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* has impacted other legislation that supports construction project processes and approvals, and construction workplace safety. The impacted legislation should undergo a holistic review to avoid duplication (thus streamlining processes) and close prospective loopholes that could put projects and people at risk.

9. Reestablish a Chief Engineer role within the Queensland Government.

This role could provide strategic and technical advice to the Queensland Government on infrastructure and planning challenges reliant on Australia's engineering capability, including the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games. At a minimum, the appointment of technical experts like engineers on existing Olympic advisory boards should be considered in order to benefit from the systems- and risk-based approach to decision making that is inherent to the engineering profession.

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