

DOT POINT BRIEF – DIRECTOR-GENERAL

SUBJECT: Meeting with Australian Football League (AFL) regarding community AFL and impact of The Gabba redevelopment

Details:

Date: 17 October 2022

Time: 1.00pm – 1.30pm

Venue: Director-General’s Boardroom, Level 34, 1 William Street, Brisbane

ATTENDEES:

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| s.47(3)(b) of the RTI Act | Australian Football |
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League (AFL)

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| s.47(3)(b) of the RTI Act | Brisbane Lions. |
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Mr Andrew Sly, Deputy Director General, Sport and Recreation, DTIS

Mr Todd Harris, Chief Executive, Stadiums Queensland (SQ)

Mr Pat Oxley, Group Executive Operations, SQ.

BACKGROUND:

1. AFL Queensland (AFLQ) is the State Level Organisation responsible for the growth and development of Australian Football throughout the state.
2. Ms Trisha Squires is the current Head of AFLQ and Mr Darryl Bray is the President of the organisation.
3. AFL membership in Queensland has exceeded pre-COVID rates with 33 815 participants in 2021.
4. AFLQ has 141 clubs operating across Queensland.

KEY ISSUES:

Support for the activity of AFL

5. Since 1 January 2015, DTIS has approved total funding of \$46.3 million towards the sport of AFL in Queensland of which \$6 572 000 was directly to AFL Queensland Ltd:
 - \$40 502 806 towards capital projects
 - \$3 767 416 towards non-capital projects
 - \$2 074 412 towards individuals.
6. The above investment includes:
 - \$4 million for the AFL Grand Final Infrastructure Legacy Fund to 2023, in partnership with AFLQ, to enhance AFL facilities across the state. This funding will assist grassroots community football clubs, local Councils and AFL umpiring organisations to deliver AFL projects across Queensland, such as improved lighting, female friendly facilities and upgraded fields of play.
 - i. To date, the Steering Group for the AFL Grand Final Legacy Fund (the Fund) has endorsed projects to a value of over \$2 826 000.
 - ii. The Fund is intended to assist grassroots community football clubs, local councils and umpiring organisations, with grants of up to \$100 000 to develop Australian rules football facilities across Queensland. Co-contributions from clubs is also encouraged.
 - iii. Ultimately, the Fund seeks to encourage and inspire more Queenslanders to be physically active through the provision of fit for purpose places and spaces. This aligns with one of the core objectives of the Queensland Government’s *Activate! Queensland* 2019-2029 strategy.

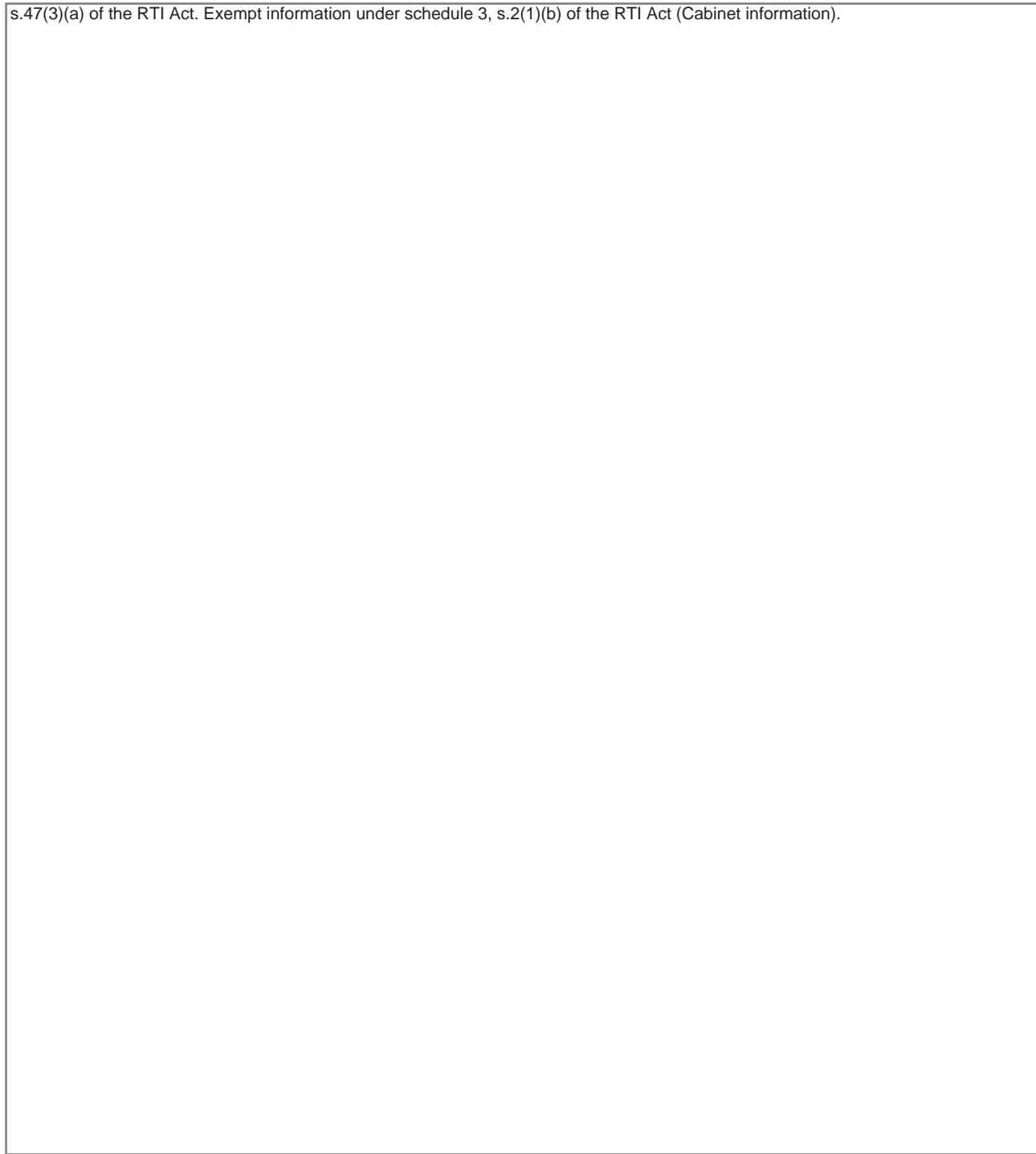
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| Author: Janine Pay Position: A/Senior Partnerships Officer Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d Date: 12/10/2022 | Endorsed by: Sandi Draper Position: A/Executive Director Telephone: 3338 9269 Date: 13/10/2022 | Endorsed by: Andrew Sly DDG: Sport and Recreation Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d Date: 14/10/2022 |
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- \$18 million in funding for the development of a boutique stadium – The Reserve – at Springfield, which is scheduled for completion in late 2022. The stadium is intended to support the AFL women’s competition in Queensland, and will also deliver an indoor training facility, a fully functional gym, a childcare centre and an administration centre for the Brisbane Lions.
 - \$152 000 in funding under the School Sport Program to deliver initiatives that enhance the quality of school sport pathways and create positive participation experiences including accreditation and training for teachers, delivery of All Play Auskick for students with a disability and mixed gender AFL gala days.
7. Total AFL participation in Queensland, including participation in school sports, has grown by 47.5 per cent over the past five-year period. This is driven mainly by increases in school introductory programs and the exponential growth in female participation across all key segments.
 8. Female participation now represents 42 per cent of all AFL participants in Queensland. This is the largest percentage of female players nationally. Queensland Government funding, along with the success of the AFL women’s competition and the Brisbane Lions women’s team, have contributed to this growth.
 9. The Queensland Government recognises the significant benefits AFL Queensland delivers including assisting participants with costs, providing access to better facilities, delivering improved health and social outcomes through physical activity, providing increased opportunities for women and girls, and providing a pathway to elite success.

The Gabba redevelopment

s.47(3)(a) of the RTI Act. Exempt information under schedule 3, s.2(1)(b) of the RTI Act (Cabinet information).

s.47(3)(a) of the RTI Act. Exempt information under schedule 3, s.2(1)(b) of the RTI Act (Cabinet information).



DOT POINT BRIEF – DPC

SUBJECT: The Premier attending and officially opening the Brisbane Lions Springfield facility on Sunday 4 December 2022

FUNCTION DETAILS:

Date: Sunday 4 December 2022
 Time: 11:30am - 12pm Official Opening Ceremony
 12pm - 2pm VIP Function
 Venue: Brighton Homes Arena
 16 Eden Station Drive, Springfield Central

BACKGROUND:

1. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has requested input to support preparation of materials for the Premier attending and officially opening the Brisbane Lions Springfield facility on Sunday 4 December 2022.
2. The Brisbane Lions was formed in late 1996 via a merger of the Melbourne based 1883 foundation VFL club the Fitzroy Lions, and the 1987 Queensland based expansion club the Brisbane Bears, with the colours of maroon, blue, and gold being drawn from both parent clubs.
3. Located at Springfield, the Brisbane Lions project is a new \$82.1 million boutique stadium to support the AFL Women’s competition in Queensland and to be a home for the Brisbane Lions for administration and training purposes.
4. In addition to the stadium, an indoor training facility, a fully functional gym, and an administration centre for the Brisbane Lions has been built.
5. The Queensland Government, through the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS), has provided \$18 million towards the development.
6. Additional financial commitments towards the delivery of the development include:
 - Australian Government - \$15 million
 - Ipswich City Council - \$20.4 million (includes Fit-for-Purpose Works valued at \$6.4 million)
 - AFL and Brisbane Lions - \$23.7 million
 - Commercial partner (Gym JV) - s.73 of the R.
7. The project commenced construction in September 2020 and achieved practical completion on 14 October 2022. Hutchinson Builders are the principal contractor.

KEY ISSUES:

8. The Brisbane Lions held a soft opening of the facility with project financial partners on 18 October 2022 including the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement.
9. The Brisbane Lions are partnering with Multicultural Australia who will co-locate at the new facility to run its Queensland operations.
10. At the sod turning event for the project, the Brisbane Lions announced that it would be called Brighton Homes Arena.
11. The Brisbane Lions recently announced that the playing field is named “Michael Voss Oval”.
12. The Brisbane Lions WAFL team is currently on top of the competition ladder.

Support for the activity of AFL

13. Since 1 January 2015, DTIS has approved total funding of \$46.3 million towards the sport of AFL in Queensland of which \$6 572 000 was directly funded to AFL Queensland Ltd (AFLQ):
 - \$40 502 806 towards capital projects
 - \$3 767 416 towards non-capital projects
 - \$2 074 412 towards individuals.

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| Author: Matthew Burton Position: Director Infrastructure Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d Date: 08/11/2022 | Endorsed by: Timothy Condon Position: Director, BOS Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d Date: 08/11/2022 | Endorsed by: Andrew Sly DDG: Sport and Recreation Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d Date: 10/11/2022 | Endorsed by: S. Gotzy obo A. Hopper A/Director-General Telephone: 3333 5123 Date: 11/11/2022 |
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14. The above investment includes:

- \$18 million in funding for this project.
- \$4 million for the AFL Grand Final Infrastructure Legacy Fund to 2023, in partnership with AFLQ, to enhance AFL facilities across the state. This funding will assist grassroots community football clubs, local Councils and AFL umpiring organisations to deliver AFL projects across Queensland, such as improved lighting, female friendly facilities and upgraded fields of play.
 - i. To date, the Steering Group for the AFL Grand Final Legacy Fund (the Fund) has endorsed projects to a value of over \$2 826 000.
 - ii. The Fund is intended to assist grassroots community football clubs, local councils and umpiring organisations, with grants of up to \$100 000 to develop Australian rules football facilities across Queensland. Co-contributions from clubs is also encouraged.
 - iii. Ultimately, the Fund seeks to encourage and inspire more Queenslanders to be physically active through the provision of fit for purpose places and spaces. This aligns with one of the core objectives of the Queensland Government's *Activate! Queensland 2019-2029* strategy.
- \$152 000 in funding under the School Sport Program to deliver initiatives that enhance the quality of school sport pathways and create positive participation experiences including accreditation and training for teachers, delivery of All Play Auskick for students with a disability and mixed gender AFL gala days.

15. Total AFL participation in Queensland, including participation in school sports, has grown by 47.5 per cent over the past five-year period. This is driven mainly by increases in school introductory programs and the exponential growth in female participation across all key segments.

16. Female participation now represents 42 per cent of all AFL participants in Queensland. This is the largest percentage of female players nationally. Queensland Government funding, along with the success of the AFL women's competition and the Brisbane Lions women's team, have contributed to this growth.

17. The Queensland Government recognises the significant benefits AFL Queensland delivers including assisting participants with costs, providing access to better facilities, delivering improved health and social outcomes through physical activity, providing increased opportunities for women and girls, and providing a pathway to elite success.

Impacts of The Gabba redevelopment on the Brisbane Lions

s.47(3)(a) of the RTI Act. Exempt information under schedule 3, s.2(1)(b) of the RTI Act (Cabinet information).

s.47(3)(a) of the RTI Act. Exempt information under schedule 3, s.2(1)(b) of the RTI Act (Cabinet information).

CONSULTATION:

29. No consultation was undertaken.

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| DOT POINT BRIEF – MINISTER |
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SUBJECT: Minister attending official opening of Brighton Homes Arena, 27 November 2022

BACKGROUND:

1. Located at Springfield, the Brisbane Bears-Fitzroy Football Club Limited (Brisbane Lions) proposed to develop a new boutique stadium, officially named Brighton Homes Arena, for the purpose of supporting the Australian Football League Women's competition in Queensland.
2. In addition to the stadium, an indoor training facility, a fully functional gym, a childcare centre and an administration centre for the Brisbane Lions, was proposed.
3. On 5 September 2019, the Governor in Council approved \$15 million in funding to the Brisbane Bears Fitzroy Football Club Limited (Brisbane Lions) to develop a new boutique stadium at Springfield for the purpose of supporting the Australian Football League Women's (AFLW) competition in Queensland.
4. In October 2020, the Queensland Government made an additional financial commitment of \$3 million.
5. In July 2022, AFL advised the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS) the total estimated project cost was \$82.1 million.
6. Contributions have also been committed from the Australian Government, Ipswich City Council (including developer contributions and in-kind fit-for-purpose bulk earthworks), the AFL and Brisbane Lions and commercial partner Gym JV towards delivery of the project.
7. The full \$18 million of the Queensland Government funding has been paid.
8. The project achieved practical completion on 14 October 2022, and a soft opening was held on 18 October 2022 with key project partners.
9. The official opening was planned to be held as a community day on Sunday 4 December 2022 but will now coincide with the AFLW Grand Final event with the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Olympics to also attend.
10. Talking Points, Fast Facts, Questions and Answers and a Media Release have been prepared for the Minister (**Attachments 1-4**).
11. A copy of the speech drafted for the Premier for the event is at **Attachment 5**.

KEY ISSUES:

12. The stadium is the first elite team sports facility in Australia to provide elite training facilities for professional men's and women's teams.
13. The facility will help enhance the competitiveness of Brisbane's teams in the Australian Football League (AFL) and AFLW competitions.
14. The stadium will assist in resolving ongoing match scheduling challenges at the Brisbane Cricket Ground and ensure AFLW athletes, officials and spectators are not resigned to using low-capacity community venues, as women's sport continues to grow in prominence across Queensland.
15. The boutique arena at the stadium will also provide South East Queensland with a suitable venue for staging AFL pre-season and AFLW matches.
16. With the Lions AFLW team progressing to the Grand Final, the AFL in collaboration with the Lions have announced for the Grand Final to be held at Brighton Homes Arena on 27 November 2022.

CONSULTATION:

17. N/A

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| Author: Matthew Burton | Endorsed by: Andrew Sly | Endorsed by: S.Gotzy obo A.Hopper |
| Position: A/Director | DDG: Sport and Recreation | A/Director-General |
| Telephone: s.47(3)(b) d | Telephone: s.47(3)(b) f | Telephone: 3333 5123 |
| Date: 22/11/2022 | Date: 23/11/2022 | Date: 24/11/2022 |

Talking Points – Official opening

**The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics
and Paralympics Sport and Engagement**

Brighton Homes Arena VIP event at Springfield Central

11.30 am, Sunday 27 November 2022

Acknowledgements:

- I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and Elders past, present and emerging.
- Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk
- Greg Swann – CEO, Brisbane Lions
- Andrew Wellington – Chairman, Brisbane Lions
- Teresa Harding – Ipswich Mayor

Introduction

- Official opening of the \$82.1 million Brighton Homes Arena at Springfield Central.

- On AFLW Grand Final Day – The Lions v Melbourne Demons at 1.40pm, right here in Springfield.
- A purpose-built stadium that sets a new benchmark for women’s sport in Australia as the country’s first team sports centre to provide elite facilities for men and women.
- A new home for the Brisbane Lions AFLW team and Lions administration base.
- A training and practice match space for the Lions men and Lions Academy boys and girls and a valuable hub for AFL Queensland finals, representative matches, school programs and community events.
- The Lions AFLW team and Lions staff have already moved in while the Lions men’s team will move in on 5 December after they return from leave.

The project

- A boutique stadium surrounding Michael Voss oval – triple Premiership winning Lions captain – along with a second full size playing field.

- A high-performance indoor training centre including a 50-metre indoor training field and kick room.
- A health and fitness centre (gym) and wellness facility with infrared saunas, float tanks, a lap pool and aquatic recovery pool that is accessible for the whole community so you can train alongside your heroes.
- The first same-sized standalone male and female change rooms, an events lawn, administration centre, meeting rooms and auditorium.
- Ipswich City Council led delivery of the fit-for-purpose bulk earthworks in 2020, then Hutchinson Builders began work in April 2021 and finished in October 2022, supporting over 260 full-time jobs during construction, plus ongoing jobs for catering, maintenance and administrative staff.
- The Arena was designed by local architects Populous.

The benefits

- More Queenslanders will be encouraged to get active, both out on the field and in the community health and fitness centre.
- Young Queensland footy players will be inspired to reach the top, especially girls who now have a boutique stadium and premium training facilities should they reach AFLW level.
- The stadium can be potentially used for Lions games during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup and while the Gabba is being redeveloped for Brisbane 2032, as the capacity can be expanded to 25,000 with temporary seating added.
- Community-use facilities provide an extra revenue stream for the Lions.
- An economic boost for the region as the Arena will be a drawcard for more carnivals, matches and events.
- Could be used for modern pentathlon at Brisbane 2032.

Funding

- \$82.1 million project which includes Queensland Government contribution of \$18 million.
- Contributions have also been provided by:
 - Federal Government
 - AFL/Brisbane Lions
 - Ipswich City Council
 - Commercial partners Gym JV.

AFL in Queensland

- There are 265,760 Queenslanders who currently participate in AFL, an increase of 47.5% over 5 years.
- The increase is due mainly to more school introductory programs and the massive rise in female participation at all levels.

- The total is made up of 154,118 males and 111,642 females – 42% of all players are female – the largest proportion in Australia.
- Female participation in AFL in Queensland has increased by 331 per cent since 2014.
- There are more than 30,000 people playing club football each week in Queensland.
- And registered participation has now surpassed 58,000 which is a new record.
- Boosted by Queensland Government funding, the success of the AFL Women's competition and the Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast Suns men's and women's teams.

AFL Funding

- The Queensland Government has approved more than \$46 million to support the sport of AFL in Queensland since 2015.
- Including more than \$40 million for capital works.

- And for other programs like Active Clubs, Disaster Recovery, Emerging Athlete Pathways, Travel subsidies, the School Sport Program and FairPlay vouchers.
- The School Sport Program, which creates positive footy experiences in schools, includes accreditation and training for teachers, All Play Auskick for students with a disability and mixed gender AFL gala days.
- The AFL Grand Final infrastructure Legacy fund which sees the AFL and Queensland Government committing \$4 million each to enhance AFL facilities across the state.
 - So far projects worth more than \$900,000 have been approved.
 - It includes improved lighting, female-friendly change rooms and upgrading playing fields.
- And \$18 million to help build Brighton Homes Arena.
- There was also an additional \$6.5 million approved to support AFL Queensland operations, since 2015.

Brisbane Lions

- AFL is booming, especially in the female ranks.
- The Brisbane Lions women's side won the 2021 AFLW Premiership after defeating the Adelaide Crows by 18 points in the Grand Final at Adelaide Oval, before Adelaide won the Premiership earlier in 2022.
- The Brisbane Lions men hosted four sold-out games in a row at The Gabba this season and made the Preliminary Final.
- The Lions have doubled their membership in six years.
- The Lions and Suns men's and women's teams provide the inspiration needed for young people to strive to reach the top – and they increasingly now have the talent pathways to do just that... from Auskick to the elite level.

Conclusion

- Brighton Homes Arena is a game changer for the Lions, for women's footy and for the wider Springfield community.

- Congratulations to Hutchinson's for the work you've done here, and to all our funding partners for helping us turn this AFL dream into a reality.
- Good luck to the Lions this afternoon!

Fast Facts

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| EVENT/TOPIC: Brighton Homes Arena opening |
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BRIGHTON HOMES ARENA

- \$82.1 million AFL stadium at Springfield Central, purpose-built as the home ground for the Brisbane Lions AFLW team.
- Australia's first team sports centre with elite facilities for men and women.
- Administration base for the Brisbane Lions and training/practice match space for the men.
- To be used by the Lions Academy boys and girls, for AFLQ finals, school and rep matches.
- Facilities that can be used by the community and for events and gala days.
- Built by Hutchinson Builders, supporting over 260 full-time jobs and designed by Populous.

FACILITIES

- Up to 10,000-capacity stadium surrounding Michael Voss oval.
- Indoor training centre with 50-metre indoor training field and kick room.
- Health and fitness centre and wellness facility with infrared saunas and float tanks.
- Lap pool and aquatic recovery pool, all of which will be accessible by the community.
- Equal-sized standalone male and female change rooms, events lawn, administration centre, meeting rooms and auditorium along with a childcare centre.

BENEFITS

- More Queenslanders encouraged to lead active, healthy lives.
- Improved pathways to the top for talented girls and boys.
- Community-use facilities to provide an extra revenue stream for the Lions.
- An economic boost for the region with more carnivals, matches and events.
- The ability to add 15,000 temporary seats for a total capacity of 25,000.
- Could be used by the Lions when the Gabba is being redeveloped for Brisbane 2032.
- Could host modern pentathlon at Brisbane 2032.

FUNDING

- \$82.1 million facility funded by the Queensland Government (\$18 million), with contributions from the Federal Government, AFL/Brisbane Lions, Ipswich City Council (including developer donations plus in-kind fit-for-purpose bulk earthworks) and commercial partners Gym JV.

BRISBANE LIONS

- Brisbane Lions won the 2021 AFLW Premiership, defeating the Adelaide Crows by 18 points.
- Brisbane Lions men hosted four sold-out games in a row at The Gabba this year, before making the 2022 Preliminary Final.
- The Lions have doubled their membership in six years.

AFL IN QUEENSLAND

- 265,760 Queenslanders who participate in AFL, an increase of 47.5% over five years.
- 154,118 males and 111,642 females – 42% females – the largest proportion in Australia.
- More than 30,000 Queenslanders play club football each week.

Fast Facts

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| EVENT/TOPIC: Brighton Homes Arena opening |
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- Registered participation now exceeds 58,000 which is a new record.
- Female participation in Queensland has increased by 331% since 2014.
- Female popularity due to the rise of the AFLW from 2017, more school programs, female-only teams and better facilities like female-friendly change rooms.

FUNDING

- \$46 million Queensland Government funding for AFL in Queensland since 2015.
- Includes \$40 million for capital works projects like Brighton Homes Arena.
- The AFL Grand Final Infrastructure Legacy Fund is seeing the Queensland Government and AFL contribute \$4 million each towards upgrading playing fields, lights and change rooms – so far projects worth more than \$900,000 have been approved.
- Other funding programs include Active Clubs, Disaster Recovery, Emerging Athlete Pathways Travel Subsidies, FairPlay vouchers and School Sport programs including All-Play Auskick for students with a disability and mixed-gender AFL gala days.

Questions and Answers

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| EVENT/TOPIC: Brighton Homes Arena opening |
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What is Brighton Homes Arena?

An \$82.1 million, 10,000-capacity AFL stadium (more during major events like AFLW Grand Finals) and high-performance training centre at Springfield Central. It is Australia's first team sports centre with elite facilities for both men and women. There is two AFL fields planned, including the main oval – Michael Voss oval. There is an indoor training centre with a 50-metre indoor training field and kick room. A health and fitness centre and wellness facility with infrared saunas and float tanks. A lap pool and aquatic recovery pool, male and female change rooms, an events lawn, administration centre, meeting rooms and auditorium.

Who will use the facility?

The Brisbane Lions AFLW team will train and play their games at the Arena. It will be used by the Brisbane Lions as an administration base and by the Lions men as a high-performance training centre and for playing practice matches. The Lions Academy boys and girls will also be able to use the facilities which can host AFLQ finals, school carnivals and representative fixtures. All the indoor facilities can be used by the community and the fields used for events and gala days.

The Lions have partnered with Multicultural Australia who will utilise the facility as their home base in Queensland.

Why did you build the stadium?

To cater for the rapid growth in participation of women's sport in Queensland, which has culminated in the AFLW competition becoming more professional and popular. To improve the pathways to the top for talented boys and girls and provide an economic boost for the region. The Arena will inspire more Queenslanders to lead active, healthy lives, especially when members of the public can train alongside some of their heroes.

Who paid for it?

The \$82.1 million stadium was funded by the Queensland Government (\$18 million), and contributions also were provided by the Federal Government, AFL/Brisbane Lions, Ipswich City Council (including in-kind fit-for-purpose bulk earthworks) and commercial partners Gym JV.

Who built it?

Hutchinson Builders, supporting over 260 full-time equivalent jobs during construction. The stadium was designed by local company Populous.

How many people play in the AFLQ competition?

There are 265,760 Queenslanders who participate in AFL, an increase of 47.5% over five years. This is made up of 154,118 males and 111,642 females – 42% females which is the largest proportion in Australia. There are more than 30,000 people in 141 clubs across Queensland who currently play club football each week in Queensland. Registered participation is more than 58,000 which is a new record and higher than before COVID. Female participation in AFL in Queensland has increased by 331% since 2014.

Questions and Answers

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| EVENT/TOPIC: Brighton Homes Arena opening |
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Why has the number of female players grown so much?

There are a lot more introductory programs in schools, and the number of female and mixed junior teams has grown since the introduction of the AFLW competition in 2017 and the success of the Brisbane Lions and Gold Coast Suns women's teams. There are also more female-friendly change rooms and facilities to cater for women and girls, and a greater awareness of the opportunities for girls to play footy with their friends.

How does the Queensland Government support AFL?

The Queensland Government has approved more than \$46 million to support the sport of AFL in Queensland since 2015, including more than \$40 million for capital works projects like Brighton Homes Arena. Other programs include Active Clubs, Disaster Recovery, Emerging Athlete Pathways, travel subsidies, school sport programs and FairPlay vouchers. The AFL Grand Final Infrastructure Legacy Fund is seeing the AFL and Queensland Governments jointly contribute \$4 million towards enhancing lighting, change rooms and playing fields across the state.

Why should people play AFL?

People can play, or volunteer as coaches, officials, managers or canteen helpers. It all helps our local community sporting clubs to thrive and enables you to get engaged in a fun activity that is good for your physical and mental health.

How good are the Brisbane Lions AFLW side?

They won the 2021 AFLW Premiership after defeating the Adelaide Crows by 18 points in the Grand Final at Adelaide Oval, before Adelaide won the Premiership at the start of 2022. The team also won the minor premiership in the second comp at the end of 2022, gifting them a home Grand Final at Brighton Homes Arena against the Demons.



Media release

Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics
and Paralympics Sport and Engagement
The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP

Brighton Homes Arena opens on AFLW Grand Final day

The \$82.1 million Brighton Homes Arena that includes a high-performance training centre will officially open to the public at Springfield on Sunday 27 November to coincide with the Lions playing Melbourne in the AFLW Grand Final.

Sport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe said this is a unique chance for the public to be part of history with the opening of Australia's first ever purpose-built stadium designed for a professional female sports team to reside, as the Lions chase an AFLW Premiership on home soil.

"Brighton Homes Arena is the nation's first team sports facility that provides elite training facilities for both professional men's and women's teams and the Lions AFLW side will test it out for the first time in a Grand Final," said Minister Hinchliffe.

"The Brisbane Lions staff and AFLW team have already moved into the facility while the Lions men's team will join them after they come back from leave on 5 December to make Springfield their full-time training headquarters.

"There is a 50-metre indoor training field and kick room, gymnasium, infrared saunas, float tanks, lap pool, aquatic recovery pools, same-sized standalone male and female change rooms, an events lawn and administration centre and auditorium.

"The stadium is also the first completed Olympic venue since the Brisbane 2032 announcement, with the venue earmarked as a potential host for modern pentathlon during the Games."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT QUOTES TO COME

AFL QUOTES TO COME

(CHECKING THESE QUOTES:)

Brisbane Lions CEO Greg Swann said all the facilities can be used by the entire Springfield community, adding valuable new revenue streams for the Lions.

"This project will have a transformative impact upon our club's ability to stage AFL women's matches in a manner expected by our Queensland supporters," said Mr Swann.

"It will also improve development pathways for junior footballers from across southern Queensland and help our AFL and AFLW athletes to reach their full potential."

"This arena is the next step in our AFL journey after Queensland revived the 2020 AFL season and hosted the AFL Grand Final, culminating in an \$8 million, three-year infrastructure legacy fund to develop grassroots sporting facilities across the state."

Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding said

Ipswich Mayor quotes to come

Ipswich Mayor quotes to come

Brighton Homes Arena was designed by local architects Populous and built by Hutchinson Builders, supporting over 260 jobs during construction.

Minister Hinchliffe said the stadium can also be used for AFL Queensland finals, representative matches and school programs across two ovals – the main stadium overlooking Michael Voss oval, named after the Lions' triple Premiership winning captain.

"Women and girls who play AFL and Lions Academy boys and girls from across Queensland now have the ultimate incentive to make it to the top with a boutique stadium they can aspire to play at on a regular basis," he said.

"The health and fitness centre, pool and wellness facilities will be accessible for the whole community so you can train alongside your heroes.

"This arena will be a valuable community space for the Ipswich region, encouraging more Queenslanders to get active while improving development pathways and boosting the economy.

"We could also see the Lions playing AFL Premiership games here next year when the FIFA Women's World Cup comes to Brisbane and when The Gabba is redeveloped for Brisbane 2032."

Brighton Homes Arena was funded by the Queensland Government (\$18 million), Federal Government, AFL and Brisbane Lions, Ipswich City Council (including developer contribution and in-kind fit-for-purpose bulk earthworks), and commercial partners Gym JV.

For more information, visit www.lions.com.au.

[ENDS] [27 November 2022]

Media contact: XX

SPEECH

**QUEENSLAND PREMIER
ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP**

**BRISBANE LIONS SPRINGFIELD FACILITY
OFFICIAL OPENING
BRIGHTON HOMES ARENA
16 EDEN STATION DRIVE,
SPRINGFIELD CENTRAL**

12.20PM, SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Land on which this event is taking place, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.
- TBC

SPEECH

Introduction

Good afternoon.

We couldn't have asked for a better event to officially open this Brisbane Lions Springfield facility.

The Brighton Homes Arena takes centre stage today for the AFLW Grand Final between our own Brisbane Lions and Melbourne Demons.

Two outstanding teams, one trophy.

Brighton Homes Arena

And one state-of-the-art arena as the perfect backdrop for the AFLW's showpiece occasion.

This is the home of the Brisbane Lions, with the women's team playing their games and training here, and the men also based here for training.

The administration side is also here.

And it's planned for the Brighton Homes Arena to host the Modern Pentathlon events during Brisbane 2032.

This is a world-class home for the world-class Brisbane Lions.

Queensland Government funding in facility

And my Government is proud of its \$18 million contribution to this \$82.1 million facility, with over 260 jobs supported during construction.

I would also like to acknowledge the financial support of the Australian Government, Ipswich City Council, the AFL and Brisbane Lions and commercial partner Gym JV.

Together, we're supporting the AFLW competition, and AFL in general.

Queensland Government funding in AFL

Since 2015, my Government has provided more than \$46 million in funding towards AFL in Queensland.

This includes more than \$40 million in capital projects, including this arena.

We've provided \$4 million, in partnership with AFL Queensland through the AFL Grand Final Infrastructure Legacy Fund, to assist grassroots community clubs, local Councils and AFL umpiring organisations.

In addition, we're investing in the future of AFL with funding of \$152,000 in the School Sport Program.

This enhances the quality of school sport pathways, including the delivery of All Play Auskick for students with a disability and mixed gender AFL gala days.

Over the past five years, there's been a 47.5 per cent growth in AFL participation in Queensland, including school sports.

Female AFL players in Queensland

This is driven mainly by increases in school introductory programs and the exponential growth in female involvement, which represents 42 per cent of all AFL participants in Queensland.

This is the largest percentage of female players nationally.

This emphasises the importance of my Government's funding in AFL, alongside the

success of the Brisbane Lions women's team and the AFLW as a competition.

AFL Queensland

And also the great work of AFL Queensland, which helps clubs with costs, provides access to better facilities and is increasing opportunities for women and girls.

AFL Queensland's pathway to elite success is clearly working, with the Brisbane Lions hoping to claim its second AFLW Premiers this afternoon.

Conclusion

Whatever happens, this is a great day for the Brisbane Lions and for the AFLW.

I hope the Final lives up to expectations and is a fitting opening game for the Michael Voss Oval at this wonderful Brighton Homes Arena

Good luck to the Lions and the Demons on this great occasion, with perhaps a little more going for the Lions!

Thank you.

ENDS

Matt Woodforth

From: Brad Harbeck s.47(3)(b) of the RTI Act
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 3:03 PM
To: Andrew Sly
Cc: Patrick Oxley
Subject: Options Analysis - Alternative venues for Gabba during Redevelopment

Hi Andrew

I hope you are well.

We met with the DG recently for an initial discussion on the potential venue alternatives for AFL and Cricket during the Gabba redevelopment period.

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Andrew suggested we reach out to you for discussion and also understand any other developments/background that may be relevant. For example Olympics venues/ infrastructure planning etc). There is a lot to unpack (and moving parts) and be good to align with any other activities that may also be in progress.

Be great to catch up and connect on this. There looks like a meeting with the Mins office, DG and our CEO will be in the next couple of weeks.

Would you be free to discuss perhaps later this week or early next week? Happy to do Teams or come into town.

Thanks
Brad

BRAD HARBECK
Commercial and Business Innovation Specialist



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P 07 3008 6100
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Matt Woodforth

From: Andrew Sly <Andrew.Sly@dtis.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 4:15 PM
To: Brad Harbeck; Lisa Watson
Cc: Patrick Oxley
Subject: RE: Options Analysis - Alternative venues for Gabba during Redevelopment

Hi Brad,

For sure

I'll ask Lisa to set us up a time

Cheers
Andrew



Andrew Sly
Deputy Director-General
Sport & Recreation
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

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Matt Woodforth

Subject: DTIS & SQ: Alternative venues for Gabba during Redevelopment
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: Wed 15/02/2023 12:00 PM
End: Wed 15/02/2023 12:45 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Organizer: Andrew Sly

Meeting with Andrew as discussed.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 479 238 824 023

Passcode: PKZpy6

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Phone Conference ID: 400 999 681#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Kind regards

Lisa



Lisa Watson
A/Senior Advisor

**Office of the Deputy Director-General | Sport & Recreation
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport**

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Andrew Sly
Deputy Director-General
Sport & Recreation
Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport

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