



**Garth HAMILTON** MP

Federal Member for **Groom**

*Listening. Working for you!*



18 August 2023

Cr Geoff McDonald  
Mayor  
Toowoomba Regional Council  
PO Box 3021  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

By email: [mayor@tr.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@tr.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mayor

I write to you in relation to the proposed upgrade of the Clive Berghofer Stadium (Toowoomba Sports Ground) in East Toowoomba. The Toowoomba Sports Ground upgrade is being undertaken to support the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On Wednesday 16 August, I attended a community forum in East Toowoomba where sporting organisations and residents expressed concern over the lack of consultation on the project, and fears that the upgrade is not in the best interests of the Toowoomba region.

Specific issues raised during the evening include:

- The need for extensive community consultation to be undertaken prior to finalising plans for the project;
- The lack of detailed project plans to date, and the requirement that these be released as part of the consultation process;
- The need to understand which Olympic and/or Paralympic events are anticipated to be held at the Toowoomba Sports Ground to justify the upgrade and allocation of funding;
- The need to take into consideration the historical value of the site (some parts were established in 1900) as part of the proposed project;
- The lack of information around the expected start date for the project, and the expected completion date;
- The sharing of information about what other options within Toowoomba were considered as alternatives to the Toowoomba Sports Ground proposed upgrade;
- The need to upgrade public transport and/or road infrastructure as part of the Toowoomba Stadium upgrade;

- The need for detailed information about how future parking issues will be addressed given current parking complaints and the anticipated increase in Toowoomba Sports Ground patrons;
- The need for a detailed plan to mitigate noise issues from the Toowoomba Sports Ground to reduce impact on residents;
- The release of detailed plans about how will impacts on residents and the local school will be mitigated during the construction phase;
- The release of information about how sporting clubs who currently use the site (tennis, croquet and bowls) will be accommodated during the construction phase and at the end of the Toowoomba Sports Ground upgrade; and
- The need to understand the return-on-investment of providing temporary seating, and what alternatives were considered to reduce waste and maximise benefits of the investment.

As you know, I am not opposed to investment in our community, however it is important that any investment is informed, has community support and leveraged to achieve legacy projects. This investment should be used to support the community for generations to come and not just to facilitate a short-term Olympic and/or Paralympic event.

I have written to both the State and Commonwealth Governments to seek further details about the proposal. I remain hopeful they will share information in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



**GARTH HAMILTON MP**  
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