



Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport

Our ref: MN03942-2020/ CTS: 24873/20
Your ref: A628291

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15168 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email tourism@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition No. 3370-20 tabled on 26 November 2020 requesting the House commits to sporting complex upgrades at Victoria Park, Rockhampton.

Browne Park in Rockhampton has for more than 100 years, been the home of rugby league in Central Queensland and on 24 September 2020, the Palaszczuk Government announced a commitment of \$25 million for stage one of its redevelopment. The Browne Park stage one redevelopment commitment follows the completion of a 2017 election commitment for a \$150 000 strategic feasibility study.

The \$25 million commitment for stage one funding includes a rebuild of the western-side Jack Crow Stand to offer nearly 4000 seats - increasing the total seating capacity to around 4300, and commitment to a Master Plan that will add seating and facilities to the Albert and George Streets stands in later stages. The stage one redevelopment will support up to 60 local jobs.

While Victoria Park Stadium provides benefit to the local community, the Palaszczuk Government's preferred redevelopment location is Browne Park. Browne Park remains the most appropriate location for a multi-purpose use stadium in the region, as the Victoria Park site is flood prone and provides limited development options. The Federal Government's announcement on 14 September 2020 in regard to Victoria Park remains the subject of further evaluation and is currently without a full funding commitment.

The Palaszczuk Government's Browne Park funding announcement is a key component of the Central Queensland Regional Recovery Action Plan designed to support the region's economic recovery and to create local jobs. By increasing Browne Park's capacity, Rockhampton and Central Queensland will have an opportunity to attract larger sporting events, national and international concerts, offer improved corporate entertainment and host large outdoor gatherings supported by the neighbouring Leagues Club

The Browne Park redevelopment is the Palaszczuk Government's priority investment option with commitment to this project further demonstrated through the inclusion of the project in the 2020-21 Queensland State budget delivered on 1 December 2020.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

In accordance with Standing Order 31, I request that this letter be tabled today.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stirling', with a stylized, cursive script.

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and
Minister for Sport