

BRISBANE 2032 OLYMPICS

RESULTS FROM OUR RESIDENT SURVEY

Brisbane locals were never asked if we wanted to host the Olympics, but if our taxpayer dollars are being used, we should get a say on what the spending priorities are. With over \$7 billion of public investment budgeted, the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games could be a once in a generation opportunity to reshape our city.

As your local Greens MPs, we believe that our local community should have a say on big decisions about our city. To hear your priorities, we surveyed residents over five months, culminating in a public summit at South Bank in February 2026. This report summarises the key findings of that survey – and how we’re responding on key issues like the Victoria Park / Barrambin stadium, demand for more public transport, and the loss of public land in Queensland.



In February 2026, we held a public summit at South Bank with nearly 400 locals. Presenters and participants discussed challenges faced by Olympics in other host cities, and what it would take to get a better deal for Brisbane. Insights from the summit have helped inform Greens policy responses to the priorities raised by residents.

KEY FINDINGS

- Less than 40% feel positive about the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games
- Cost overruns, increased house prices / rents, and expensive new stadiums were the top concerns
- Locals want the Olympics budget to be spent on public transport, public space and affordable housing
- There is strong support for buying back the AirTrain to cut ticket costs, and for extending the Sunshine Coast rail line
- Policies to build public and affordable housing were highly supported, including minimum quotas for new developments and converting the Athletes Village to public housing
- Most locals want the Government to clean up the Brisbane River and invest in more cycleways and walkways for active transport

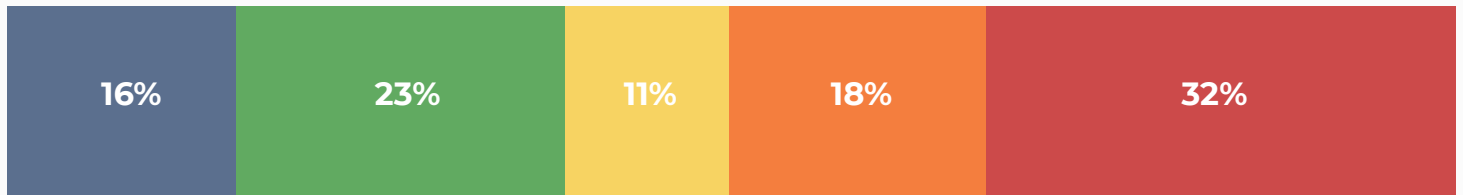
ABOUT THE SURVEY

Between September 2025 and March 2026, we ran an online survey asking Brisbane residents what the priorities for infrastructure spending should be ahead of the 2032 Olympics. The survey was promoted via email and social media, and via print mail to residents represented by Greens MPs Elizabeth Watson Brown (Federal MP for Ryan) and Michael Berkman (State MP for Maiwar).

- **Total responses:** 382 residents (including 34 partial responses)
- **Gender:** 59% women, 34% men, 7% non-binary/other
- **Housing:** 72% home owners, 17% renters, 11% other
- **Location:** 89% of respondents lived in Brisbane's inner-west
- **Recreation:** 56% participate in community sports or recreation groups

ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE 2032 OLYMPICS

● Very positive ● Positive ● Neutral ● Concerned ● Very concerned



The survey results showed that **most Brisbane locals are apprehensive about the 2032 Olympic Games**, with 50% of respondents expressing concern, compared to 39% who feel positive. Interestingly, participation in sports and recreation didn't correlate with more positive attitudes, with 66% of those engaged in recreation groups doubtful the Olympics will deliver benefits for local sport.

While some residents are excited about the historic event and the opportunity to showcase Brisbane on the "world stage," many others view the Games as a "waste of public money" that prioritises "ego-driven" projects over community needs. This scepticism is fuelled by a perceived lack of transparency and consultation by both LNP and Labor governments. **Major fears include "budget blowouts," the exacerbation of the housing crisis, and the "destruction of green space,"** particularly regarding the proposed stadium at Victoria Park/Barrambin.

TOP CONCERNS

- 1 Cost overruns and government debt
- 2 Increased house prices and rents
- 3 Building expensive stadiums that may be underused
- 4 Strain on public transport and infrastructure
- 5 Displacement of homeless people

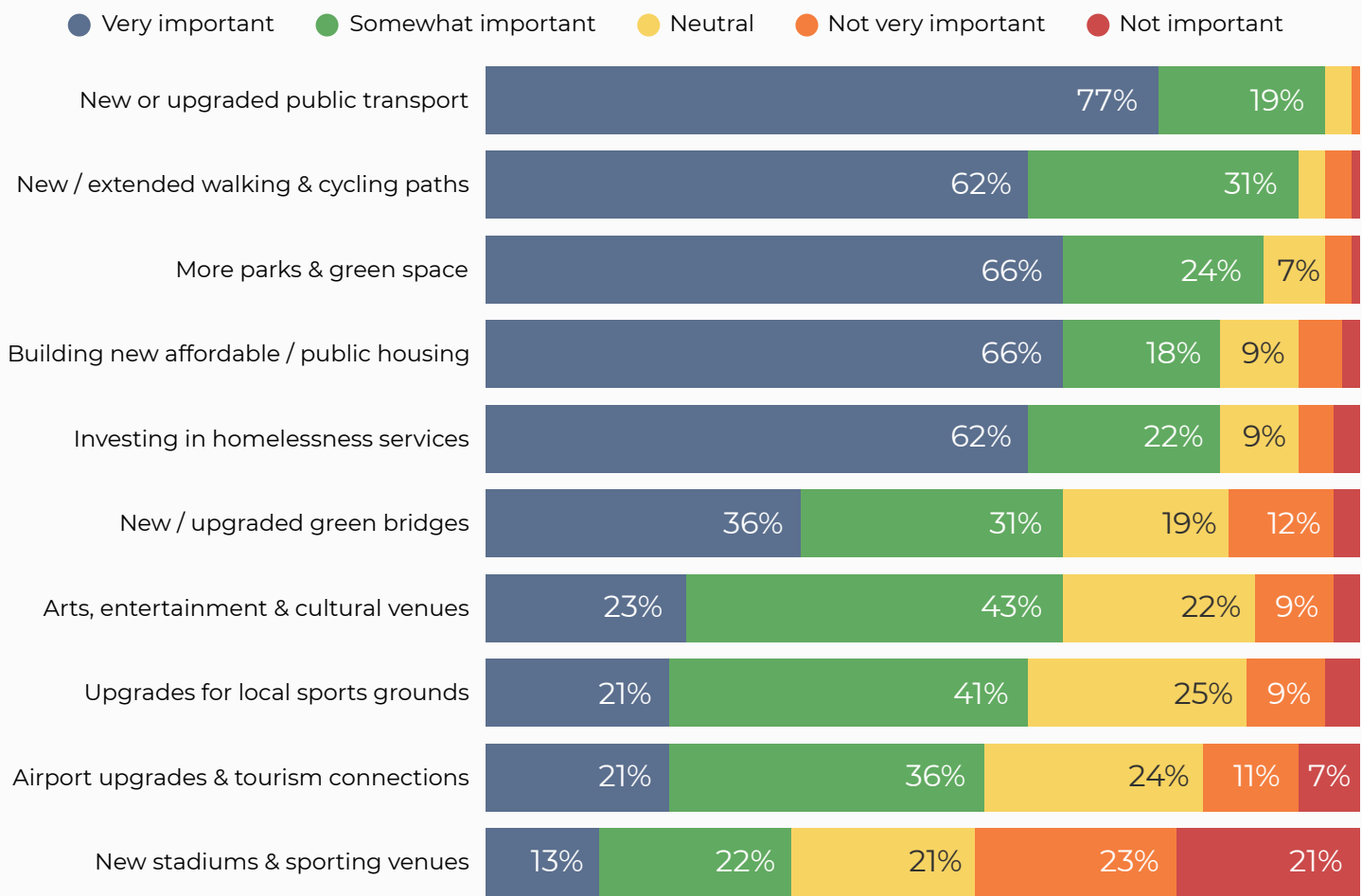
TOP PRIORITIES

- 1 Better public transport
- 2 More public space and infrastructure
- 3 Affordable and public housing
- 4 Clean up the Brisbane River and local environment
- 5 Jobs and local business opportunities

When asked what benefits they wanted from the Olympics, improved public transport was the highest priority, followed by public spaces and infrastructure (e.g. parks and bikeways), and affordable housing. Many see the Olympics as a potential catalyst that could accelerate overdue infrastructure, such as "high-speed trains" and using the athletes' village to deliver public housing.

Importantly, a new stadium was the lowest priority for locals, reflecting community opposition to the plans for a stadium at Victoria Park / Barrambin. There was a strong sentiment expressed that public funds should be directed toward public goods like healthcare and education instead of "one-off" sporting facilities.

INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING: YOUR PRIORITIES



The highest priority for infrastructure spending is new or upgraded public transport, with 96% rating it as very or somewhat important.

This was followed closely by walking and cycling paths (92%), parks and green space (89%) and new affordable and public housing (84%).



It is worth noting that housing is the highest rated priority among renters, homeless or people living with family/friends, highlighting the immediacy of this need for those most impacted by the housing crisis.

WHAT YOU SAID

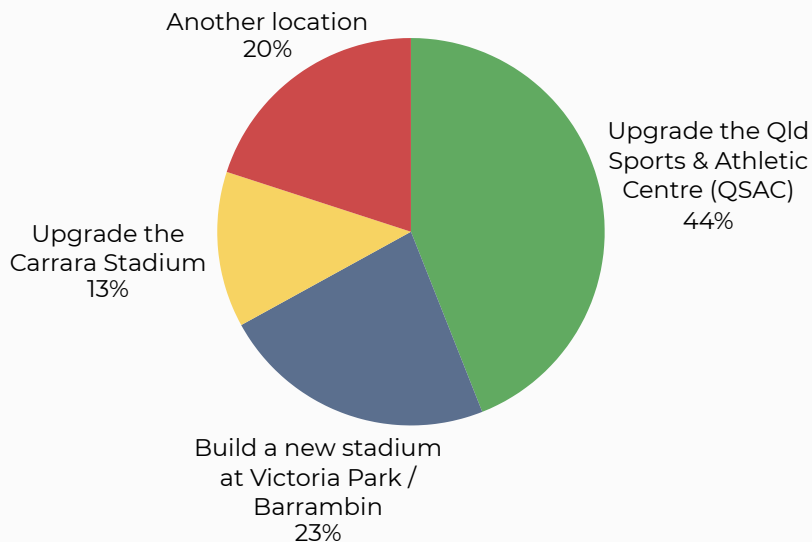
“ This must be beneficial to all. Not just the rich.

“ Push for a bus station in Toowong... and bus lanes on Coronation Dr!

“ The athletes village must stay in public hands.

LOW SUPPORT FOR NEW STADIUM

PREFERRED STADIUM OPTION



WHAT YOU SAID

“We should not be building stadiums, we should be building homes.”

The survey results show **local residents overwhelmingly oppose the LNP State Government's plans for a Victoria Park Stadium**, with 70% opposing the use of \$3.8 billion in taxpayer funds for the project. This attitude was reflected in written feedback, with residents describing the proposed development as a "total hypocrisy" regarding First Nations heritage and a "vandalising" of precious parklands that should instead be preserved as a lasting community legacy.

Instead, respondents preferred options that would upgrade existing facilities, expressing concerns that the Victoria Park Stadium would be costly, unnecessary, and environmentally damaging.

Respondents suggested refurbishing existing sites like QSAC, the Sleeman Sports Complex, or Suncorp Stadium. There is also a significant push to redevelop "brownfield" or industrial sites, such as Hamilton Wharf, the RNA Showgrounds, or old factories.

YOUR PRIORITIES

FOR AN OLYMPIC STADIUM

1. Minimise impact on environmental or cultural heritage
2. Able to be used by the public after the Olympics
3. Close to existing public transport connections

FIGHTING TO SAVE VICTORIA PARK / BARRAMBIN

As your Greens MPs, we believe the Victoria Park stadium is a disastrous idea and we continue to oppose it at a Council, State and Federal level.

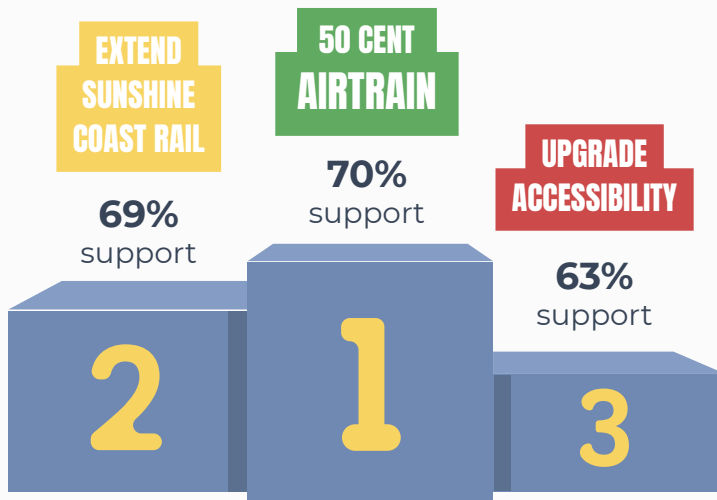
We'll never condone the irrevocable loss of any scarce remaining greenspace in the central Brisbane area, nor the destruction of a site of such significance to the First Nations community.

In State Parliament, Michael Berkman MP has always voted against the LNP's moves to fast track the stadium, including their move to exempt Olympics developments from environmental and planning safeguards, and their conversion of Victoria Park / Barrambin to freehold land to be sold off to the highest bidder. He is pushing the Government to release accurate costings for the stadium, given cost blowouts in construction from the global oil shock.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

TOP 3 TRANSPORT PROPOSALS



YOUR IDEAS

- **Build separated cycleways** for bicycles, e-bikes & scooters
- **New ferry terminals** for West End & Indooroopilly
- **New and extended busways** along Western Freeway & Moggill Road
- **More buses** for Kenmore, Moggill, Bellbowrie & Chapel Hill
- **Direct bus connections** between the city & The Gap / Upper Kedron
- **Express trains to Toowoomba** (made possible by widening train tracks)

The most popular public transport idea is to **buy back the Airport train and make tickets 50 cents (70%)**, closely followed by extending the train line to Maroochydore and the Sunshine Coast Airport (69%) – highlighting the importance of affordable rail connections to our busy airports.

Other popular initiatives included upgrading the accessibility of public transport (63%), and increasing the frequency of both train services (61%) and bus routes (60%).

The free-text responses showed a **demand for frequency and reliability, particularly in "transport deserts" like the Western Suburbs**. There was a strong desire for bus availability beyond peak hours, requesting more frequent electric buses and the creation of a "true Metro" to move away from car dependency.

The overall sentiment is that the 2032 Olympics should be used as a driver to deliver a high-capacity, affordable, and accessible transport legacy for the entire Brisbane region.



BUY BACK THE AIRTRAIN AND MAKE IT 50C

Thanks to a bad privatisation deal announced by Labor and signed by the LNP, our airport train is being held to ransom by an offshore corporation. The contract bans any other public transport to the airport until 2036, giving AirTrain a huge monopoly – so they can rob you blind with sky high prices.

As your State Greens MP, Michael Berkman is petitioning the government to buy back the airport train. By ending the private contract and bringing the AirTrain into public hands, we could boost train frequency, build more stations, and bring fares down to 50c.

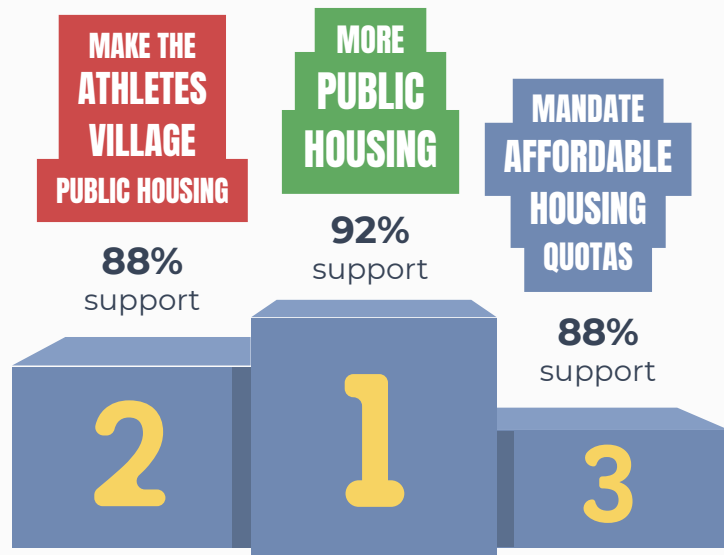
Sign the petition →



HOUSING IMPACTS

A high number of respondents expressed anxiety over Brisbane's existing housing crisis, with **locals fearing the Olympics would exacerbate homelessness and price locals out** of their own suburbs. Many highlighted the risk of "rentals being converted into holiday accommodation" and the displacement of vulnerable groups from public spaces to "clean up" the city for tourists.

TOP 3 HOUSING PROPOSALS



Of the policies suggested to reduce negative housing impacts from the 2032 Olympics, **building more public and affordable housing is the most popular solution**, with 92% in support. Other measures to boost public housing were also popular, including retaining public ownership of land used for Olympics developments (88%); minimum affordable housing quotas (88%); converting the Athletes village to public housing (88%); providing housing and other supports for people who are homeless (88%); and charging a vacancy levy to prevent land banking (87%).

Other policies suggested by respondents included **scrapping or limiting negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions**, and increasing supply by cutting 'red tape' and promoting alternative housing such as tiny homes, granny flats and modular builds. There was a high level of concern about strain on construction capacity from the Victoria Park Stadium, with **a number of people suggesting the simplest solution would be to cancel the Olympics entirely** and reinvest the funding into public housing and essential infrastructure.

OUR PLAN TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Elizabeth, Michael and all of the Queensland Greens are fighting to increase affordable public housing.

We're campaigning for:

- A publicly owned property developer to build 100,000 public homes over six years
- Minimum 25% public housing in all major property developments
- Public ownership of any Athletes Villages built, to turn into public housing
- Caps on rent increases and increased protections from unfair evictions

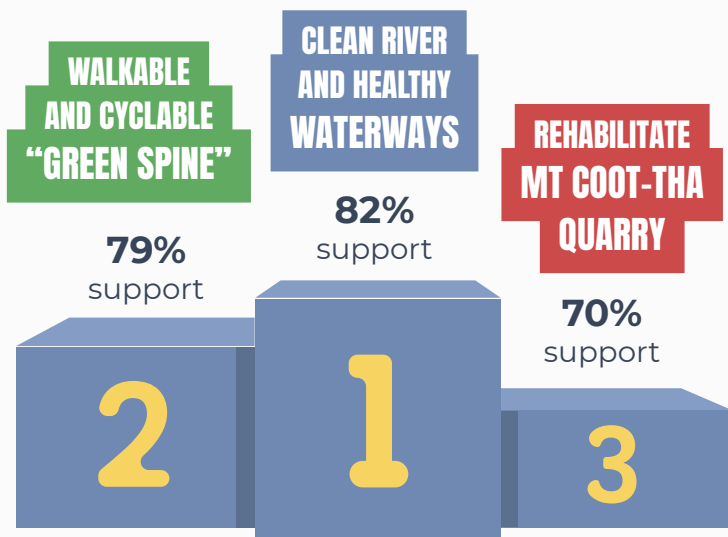
DID YOU KNOW?

The LNP State Government recently scrapped a mandate that required at least 15% affordable housing in state-facilitated developments.

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE

Of the many options for public space and environmental investment being debated ahead of the Olympics, residents wanted environmental rehabilitation and new footpaths/cycleways the most.

TOP 3 PUBLIC SPACE PROPOSALS



DID YOU KNOW?

The Brisbane River largely gets its brown colour from soil erosion & sediment runoff from cattle grazing along the river's tributaries. By stabilising the banks of major creeks with native vegetation, applying better sediment controls, and reducing plastic pollution, we can make our river cleaner and more swimmer friendly.

The most popular proposal was to clean up the Brisbane river and invest in healthier waterways (82%), followed closely by a new walkable and cyclable "Green Spine" (79%), and the rehabilitation of the Mt Coot-tha Quarry as public green space (70%). Support for green space projects was highly localised, with new parks in South Brisbane and the Gabba receiving higher support among residents located south of the river.

Many respondents emphasised the need to retain existing green spaces instead of just replacing them. One respondent captured the sentiment well, stating:

“...culture, history and mature vegetation are either irreplaceable or would take decades to replace to the same extent.”

A number of residents emphasised the need to consider climate impacts, noting the importance of shade trees to reduce rising city temperatures and help "absorb water during downpours". There was also a strong call to "fast-track cycling and walking bottleneck areas" and ensure revitalisation includes outer suburbs – not just the CBD.

PUBLIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GOOD

As your Greens MPs, we support proposals for new “green spines” of cycleways, walkways and parkland between major Brisbane destinations. Paris built 55km of new cycleways for their Olympic Games - we should do the same!

We're campaigning for:

- New separated cycleways on arterial roads like Sylvan Road
- Mt Coot-tha Quarry to be closed & rehabilitated as green space
- A Toowong-West End green bridge (cycling / pedestrian bridge)
- A public pool for Brisbane's inner west

We're also fighting for public ownership to be retained over sites like Victoria Park/Barrambin, the VISY site in South Brisbane, and the Woolloongabba development area – so we can deliver more parks, affordable homes and community precincts.

Sign the petition

CLOSE AND REHABILITATE THE MT COOT-THA QUARRY!



MICHAELBERKMAN.COM.AU/QUARRY

WHAT'S NEXT?

Critical decisions about Olympics infrastructure spending are being made right now at the local Council, State and Federal level. These include decisions on cultural heritage protections for Victoria Park/Barrambin, public transport and renewal projects, and critical decisions about the sale of public land.

Together with our local Greens Councillors Cr Seal Chong Wah (Paddington Ward) and Cr Trina Massey (Gabba Ward), Michael and Elizabeth are committed to fighting for the priorities you've identified – that means NO new stadium, and MORE public transport, public housing and public parks for our growing city.

Join the call for an

OLYMPICS FOR THE PEOPLE



Together with local community campaign groups, we're fighting for a better deal from the Brisbane 2032 Olympics. Join our mailing list to hear about opportunities to have your say on decisions about the Olympics, and connect with campaigns for public transport, housing and green space in our city.

DEMAND A
BETTER DEAL



MICHAEL BERKMAN

MEMBER FOR MAIWAR ▲

ELIZABETH WATSON-BROWN

MEMBER FOR RYAN

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