REPORT
INDIA
OFFICIAL 2018
COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID
AND TRADE MISSION

LED BY THE HONOURABLE ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

30 SEPTEMBER – 5 OCTOBER 2010
INDEX

PROGRAM ................................................................................................................. 3

OFFICIAL DELEGATION MEMBERS ......................................................................... 10

TRADE QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVES IN MARKET ........................................ 10

GOLD COAST 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES BID DELEGATION MEMBERS ........ 11

WHY THIS MARKET? INDIA .................................................................................. 13

BREAKFAST MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR PETER VARGHESE AO, AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA .............................................................. 15

MEETING WITH ADANI GROUP ............................................................................... 16

MEETING WITH PEARLS GROUP ............................................................................ 18

MEETING WITH BHUSHAN STEEL LIMITED .......................................................... 21

FRIENDS OF QUEENSLAND LUNCHEON .............................................................. 24

19th COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIAN TEAM RECEPTION .................. 26

PRESENTATION TO INTERNATIONAL COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION ... 27

DINNER WITH COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION’S EXECUTIVE BOARD ... 30

ATTEND BUSINESS CLUB AUSTRALIA VIP RECEPTION ..................................... 31

COMMONWEALTH GAMES OPENING CEREMONY ........................................... 32

ATTACHMENTS

A  PREMIER’S ADDRESS TO THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION GENERAL ASSEMBLY

B  MEDIA RELEASES

C  MEDIA CLIPPINGS
PROGRAM

30 September – 5 October

Time Zones

Time in bold indicates local time
Time in normal font indicates Brisbane time

Time Differences

Singapore 2 hours behind Brisbane
Delhi 4.5 hours behind Brisbane

Thursday 30 September 2010 – Brisbane/Sydney/Singapore/Delhi

7:00am  Depart Brisbane for Sydney on Qantas Airways QF505
         Travel time: 1h 35mins

8:35am  Arrive Sydney

11:20am Depart Sydney for Singapore on Singapore Airlines SQ232
         Travel time: 8h 20mins

5:40pm  Arrive Singapore
7:40pm  Premier to be escorted to VIP lounge

7:05pm  Depart Singapore for Delhi on Singapore Airlines SQ408
         Travel time: 5h 35mins

10:10pm  Arrive Delhi
2:40am (Friday 1 Oct)  Met on arrival by His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO, Australian High Commissioner to India and Dr Lachlan Strahan, Deputy High Commissioner airdside and proceed to lounge for VVIP priority processing. You will be met by Detective Senior Sergeant, Colin Briggs after transition through the priority processing lounge.

The Australian High Commission will provide a vehicle for your use throughout the mission.
10:45pm  
Travel to the hotel  
Travel time: 45mins

11:30pm  
4:00am (Friday 1 Oct)  
Met by Mr Rod Solomons, Trade and Investment Commissioner, India on arrival at hotel.

Shangri-La's Eros Hotel  
19 Ashoka Road  
Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001  
Tel: 0011 91 11 4119 1919  
Fax: 0011 91 11 4119 1988

Overnight  
Delhi

Shangri-La's Eros Hotel  
19 Ashoka Road  
Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001  
Tel: 0011 91 11 4119 1919  
Fax: 0011 91 11 4119 1988

Friday 1 October 2010 – Delhi

8:15am – 9:00am  
Breakfast meeting with His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO, Australian High Commissioner to India

Venue:  
"19 Oriental Avenue" Restaurant  
Shangri-La’s - Eros Hotel  
19 Ashoka Road  
Connaught Place  
New Delhi 110001

9:00am – 10:00am  
Meeting with Mr Gautam S Adani, Executive Chairman, Adani Group

Venue:  
Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor  
Shangri-La’s - Eros Hotel  
19 Ashoka Road  
Connaught Place  
New Delhi 110001
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Meeting with Mr Gurpartap Singh, Director, Pearls Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Venue:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Ashoka Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connaught Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Delhi 110001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Meeting with Mr Neeraj Singal, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Bhushan Steel Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30pm - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Venue:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Ashoka Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connaught Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Delhi 110001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Brisbane liaison time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm - 5:30pm</td>
<td>Friends of Queensland Luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Venue:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Island Bar (located on the lobby level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 Ashoka Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connaught Place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Delhi 110001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm</td>
<td>Travel to next meeting (subject to confirmation of travel time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel time: 30mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>2:30pm (TBC) Meeting with Commonwealth Games Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Venue:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashok Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Delhi 110021 INDIA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Return to hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel time: 30mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Brisbane Liaison time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Travel to next meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9:30pm

5:30pm – 7:00pm
10:00pm – 11:30pm

19th Commonwealth Games Australian Team’s Reception

Venue:
High Commissioner’s Lawn
Australian High Commission Compound
No. 1 /50 G Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021, India

7:00pm
11:30pm

Return to hotel
Travel time: 30mins

overnight

Delhi

Shangri-La’s Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001
Tel: 0011 91 11 4119 1919
Fax: 0011 91 11 4119 1988

Saturday 2 October 2010 – Delhi (Gandhi’s Birthday)

Timings for today’s program remain fluid and will be advised on the day.

am

Travel to next meeting
Travel time: 40mins

am

Meeting with Mr Perry Crosswhite, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Commonwealth Games Committee and Queensland bid board representatives.

Venue:
Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101
Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6050

12.00pm

Bid presentation preparation meeting with Mr Mark Stockwell, Chairman and Mr Mark Peters, Chief Executive Officer, Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board

Venue:
Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101
Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6050
2.00pm Attend the Commonwealth Games Assembly Meeting and present Queensland’s bid for the Gold Coast to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games

Venue: Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101
Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6060

pm Commonwealth Games Federation Regional Meetings – formal and informal meetings as key delegates become available

Venue: Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101
Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6060

pm Return to hotel
Travel time: 40mins

7:00pm – 9:30pm Dinner with Commonwealth Games Federation Executive Board and Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board

Venue: Private Dining Room
Shangri-La’s - Eros Hotel
“19 Oriental Avenue” Restaurant
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place
New Delhi 110001

overnight Delhi

Shangri-La’s Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001
Tel: 0011 91 11 4119 1919
Fax: 0011 91 11 4119 1988

Sunday 3 October 2010 – Delhi

8am Breakfast with Mark Stockwell, Chair Gold Coast 2018 Bid, Mark Peters, CEO Gold Coast 2018 Bid, Mike Fennel, CGF President, Prince Imran, Vice Chair CGF and Mike Hooper, CEO CGF

Venue: Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri
9.30am
Meetings with Commonwealth Games Committee Members – formal and informal meetings as key delegates become available

Venue:
Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA
Tel: 0011 91 11 2611 0101
Fax: 0011 91 11 2687 6060

3:00pm – 5:00pm
Attend Business Club Australia VIP Reception

Venue:
High Commissioner’s Lawn
Australian High Commission Compound
No 1/50 G Shanti Path, Chanakayapuri
New Delhi 110-021 India

5:00pm
Premier and Detective Senior Sergeant Colin Briggs depart for the Opening Ceremony in a bus designated for all VIPs attending the Opening Ceremony – departure point is yet to be determined.

7:00pm
Attend Opening Ceremony of the 18th Commonwealth Games 2010

Venue:
Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex
Pragati Vihar, in Lodi Colony
South Delhi

pm
Premier and Detective Senior Sergeant Colin Briggs to catch a bus designated for all VIPs after the Opening Ceremony – arrival point is yet to be determined.

pm
Return to hotel
Travel time: 30mins

Overnight
Delhi

Shangri-La's Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001
Tel: 0011 91 11 4119 1919
Fax: 0011 91 11 4119 1988
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:25am</td>
<td>Check out of hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30am</td>
<td>Arrive at airport and check in to flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:55am</td>
<td>Depart Delhi for Singapore on Singapore Airlines SQ405 Travel time: 5h 40mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:05am</td>
<td>Arrive Singapore International Airport Premier to be escorted to VIP lounge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:10am</td>
<td>Depart Singapore for Brisbane on Singapore Airlines Flight No SQ235 Travel time: 7h 35mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight</td>
<td>In transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday 4 October 2010 – Singapore/Brisbane**

**Tuesday 5 October 2010 – Brisbane**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:45am</td>
<td>Arrive Brisbane International Airport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OFFICIAL DELEGATION MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Honourable Anna Bligh MP</td>
<td>Premier of Queensland and Minister for the Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Chris Taylor</td>
<td>Principal Media Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detective Senior Sergeant Colin Briggs</td>
<td>Queensland Police Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Clothes Sergeant Darren Carey</td>
<td>Queensland Police Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Clothes Senior Constable Bradley Holland</td>
<td>Queensland Police Service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRADE QUEENSLAND REPRESENTATIVES IN MARKET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr Rod Solomons</td>
<td>Queensland Government Trade and Investment Commissioner - India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Sudhir Basavaraju</td>
<td>Principal Business Development Officer Trade and Investment Queensland - Bangalore, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position/Role</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mark Stockwell</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Glynis Nunn-Cears OAM</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Peter Morahan</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Bronwyn Morris</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dennis Chant</td>
<td>Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mark Peters</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ian Whitehead</td>
<td>Executive Director, Sport and Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Melissa Price</td>
<td>Manager – Bid Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Olivia Phillips</td>
<td>Senior Project Officer – Bid Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tehana Carniel</td>
<td>Manager, Marketing and Communications – Bid Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Richard Pascoe</td>
<td>Manager, Project Services for the CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bryan Case</td>
<td>Manager, Project Services for the CEO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Tony Crimmins</td>
<td>Acting Inspector, Projects Officer Operations Support Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Don Hewitt</td>
<td>Project Manager, Project Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dale Dickson</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Team</td>
<td>Gold Coast City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast City Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Police Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public Works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast City Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Larry Sengstock</td>
<td>Basketball Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Shane Chelepy</td>
<td>Queensland Police Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent, Counter Terrorism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Branch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHY THIS MARKET? INDIA

India is currently the second fastest growing major economy in the world, a pattern that is set to continue for the next few years elevating India's status as a rising economic superpower and a major player in the 21st century global economy. India's society is characterised by a large, growing and increasingly affluent middle class and a relatively young population. The country is poised to experience a dramatic expansion of domestic consumption that will make it one of the largest consumer markets in the world.

India's strategic influence will naturally grow with its expanding economy. India is Queensland's fourth-largest trading partner and the third-largest export destination—rendering it one of the most important markets for Queensland and its importance will only increase in the future. The Queensland Government recognises that India is a major contributor to the current global order and Trade and Investment Queensland has a strategically-located office in Bangalore and representation in Mumbai and Kolkata to nurture our bilateral trade and investment relationship and spearhead opportunities for Queensland businesses.

The objective of your mission is to strategically position Queensland and specifically Gold Coast City as the future host destination of the XXI Commonwealth Games 2018 at the Commonwealth Games Federation's General Assembly to be held on Saturday 2 October 2010, the day before the Games opening in India. The competitor to this bid is the City of Hambantota in Sri Lanka which will be represented by their President, Mahinda Rajapaksa. This General Assembly is Queensland's first formal opportunity to present to the Commonwealth Games Federation on why Gold Coast City is the perfect location for the 2018 Games.

In addition you will also have the opportunity to strengthen Queensland's position as an ally and destination for future trade and investment in the eyes of the Indian market and nation leaders, some of whom you will meet during this visit. Queensland's commitment to India is highlighted through its involvement in the Commonwealth Games 2010 — this year's biggest international event — with a number of Sports Infrastructure companies from Queensland rendering products and services for the Games and also through Trade and Investment Queensland's strategic projects coordinated in the key sectors of:

- infrastructure, including residential and commercial developments, mining equipment, technology and services, and sports infrastructure focussed on the 2010 Commonwealth Games;
- emerging industries, including clean technology, food and agri-business and health and pharmaceutical; and
- education and training, primarily the vocational education and training sector.

Your mission to India will reinforce Queensland's relationship with the Indian government and business communities at the highest levels through targeted meetings, events and activities taking place during your visit.

Between 3-9 October 2010 Trade and Investment Queensland is also coordinating a Building and Construction Trade Mission to the Indian cities of Hyderabad and Chennai to coincide with India's Green Building Congress. This trade mission of eight Queensland companies will provide insight into current trends of the Indian building and construction sector through meeting programs for mission delegates. The largest Indian industry after services and agriulture, the construction sector contributes
around 7 per cent of India's GDP and is forecast to grow at a rate of over 10 per cent per annum for the next five years.

The Lord Mayor's of Brisbane and Ipswich will be signing a three-city sister city agreement with Hyderabad, India the week following your visit.

In 2009-10 Trade and Investment Queensland coordinated two trade missions (building and construction & mining, equipment technology and services) and one high-level Queensland mission led by you to India.

(Source: Trade and Investment Queensland, September 2010)
BREAKFAST MEETING WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR PETER VARGHESE AO, AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO INDIA

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 8:15am – 9:00am
Venue: "19 Oriental Avenue" Restaurant
Shangri-La’s - Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place
New Delhi 110001

ATTENDEES

His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO
Australian High Commissioner to India

Mr Peter Linford
Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner – South Asia & Minister Commercial – India, Australian High Commission

Mr Rod Solomons
Trade and Investment Commissioner, India

MEETING SUMMARY

- Received a briefing on the current issues surrounding the delivery of the 2010 Commonwealth Games; more broadly the current economic and political situation in India and the implications for Queensland; as well as issues which may be relevant to the following meetings with Adani Group and Pearls Group.

- This meeting sought the High Commissioner’s assistance in promoting Gold Coast City in the upcoming 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid.

KEY POINTS

- Adani Group has acquired mining permits for the Labona-Moray Downs area in the Galilee Basin in Central Queensland.

- Sought the High Commissioner’s advice on current discussions with Mr Adani and Adani Group in relation to their investment potential for Queensland and Australia as a meeting with Mr Adani immediately followed this meeting.

- The Pearls Group is a major investor in Queensland through acquisition of the Sheraton Mirage Hotel on the Gold Coast. Sought Trade Commissioner Linford’s advice on current discussions with the Pearl’s Group about their interests to expand and further invest into Queensland/Australia.
MEETING WITH THE ADANI GROUP

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 9:00am – 10:00am
Venue: Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor
        Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel
        19 Ashoka Road
        Connaught Place
        New Delhi 110001

ATTENDEES

The Honourable Anna Bligh  Premier of Queensland
Mr Chris Taylor  Principal Media Advisor, Office of the Premier
Mr Guatam S Adani  Executive Chairman, Adani Group
Mr Harsh V Mishra  President - Corporate Planning, Adani Group
His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO  Australian High Commissioner to India
Mr Peter Linford  Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner & Minister Commercial, Australian High Commission
Mr Rod Solomons  Trade and Investment Commissioner, India
Mr Sudhir Basavaraju  Principal Business Development Officer, Queensland Trade and Investment Office
Mr Brendan Hodgson  Second Secretary, Australian High Commission

KEY POINTS

- The Adani Group is a major Indian corporation comprised of more than 50 companies with the core business in commodities trading in oil, gas and mining. The Group also has extensive interests in port management/operations, retail services and call centres.
- The company has recently completed the largest ever investment deal by an Indian company into Australia and is exploring further opportunities in Queensland.
- This meeting provided an opportunity to promote relations with the company as they are significant international investors in the State, including the purchase of an Exploration Permit for Coal for the Galilee Basin from Link Energy for A$500 million cash plus royalties for 20 years, worth up to A$3 billion in total.
MEETING SUMMARY

• The Premier welcomed the Adani Group's investment in Queensland.

• The Premier stressed that the on-going sale process for the Port of Brisbane was subject to strict probity requirements and could not be the subject of any discussions at the meeting.

• Mr Adani and Mr Mishra outlined the scope of the Adani Group’s business interests in Australia and India – the Australian component focused on the Adani Group’s resource interests in the Galilee Basin in central-west Queensland.

• Mr Mishra asked if the proposal by Hancock Coal to build a rail line from its Alpha Coal Mine to Abbot Point would prohibit the Adani Group from constructing its own independent rail line, which would allow third party access.

• The Premier said there was no such barrier – recent changes to Queensland’s regulatory framework catered for such proposals.

• The Queensland Government would be willing to discuss any proposal with the Adani Group but would not want to see inefficient infrastructure developed.

• The company would need to commercially justify its proposal before approval was granted. Selection of a destination port for any new rail line was a capacity, not a regulatory, issue.

• Mr Mishra asked if the state of Queensland offered financial incentives for infrastructure projects. The Premier responded that it depended on the type of investment and that incentives were provided for secondary processing or value-adding facilities. Resource development was geographically fixed and therefore did not attract incentives.

• Mr Mishra asked if their company could develop underground coal gasification in the Galilee Basin. The Premier said a moratorium on new applications for underground coal gasification was in place until the technology was proven. The Adani Group would be free to undertake feasibility studies but cautioned that the Adani Group should not undertake financial commitments on the basis the moratorium would be lifted.

• Mr Mishra asked the Premier to nominate a key contact point within the Queensland Government. The Premier said the Queensland Government had appointed a new Coordinator-General, Mr Graeme Newton, to oversee projects of state significance. The Premier invited the Adani Group to meet with Mr Newton when next in Brisbane.

• The Premier agreed to attend the opening of the Adani Group’s new office in Brisbane in October and requested the company contact her office to discuss a suitable time.
MEETING WITH THE PEARLS GROUP

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 10:00am - 11:00am
Venue: Meeting Room 1, 1st Floor
Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place
New Delhi 110001

ATTENDEES

The Honourable Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland
Mr Chris Taylor Principal Media Advisor, Office of the Premier
Mr Gurpartap Singh Director - Pearls Group
Ms Sukhwinder Singh Director - Pearls Group
Mr Peter Madrers Joint Managing Director - Pearls Australasia
Mr Paul Brinsmead Joint Managing Director - Pearls Australasia
Mr Rikhab Jai Group General Manager - Pearls Group
His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO Australian High Commissioner
Mr Peter Linford Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner & Minister Commercial, Australian High Commission
Mr Rod Solomons Trade and Investment Commissioner, India
Mr Sudhir Basavaraju Principal Business Development Officer, Queensland Trade and Investment Office
Mr Brendan Hodgson Second Secretary, Australian High Commission

KEY POINTS

- This meeting was designed to encourage the Pearls Group to increase its investment portfolio in Queensland leveraging off its current investment in the Sheraton Mirage Hotel on the Gold Coast and the recently announced joint venture with David Devine's Metro Property Development Group.
- The Pearls Group is one of the largest private landholders in India with extensive interests in infrastructure, civil, commercial and residential construction, property development, tourism, education, agriculture and media.
- Globally the Pearls Group has in excess of 1.6million employees across its various entities.
MEETING SUMMARY

- Mr Madrers said Pearls’ investments in Queensland, particularly the Sheraton Mirage on the Gold Coast, were progressing well, Mr Jai said the company’s experience of investing in Australia was a positive one. The environment had been welcoming and encouraging.

- Mr Madrers said Pearls was planning to spend $3.5 million on renovations to the Sheraton Mirage over the next three and a half years. A major expansion was also planned. The company had made a serious commitment to the Gold Coast and looked to continued government investment in the area, particularly the super yacht facility at the Gold Coast Broadwater.

- The Premier said the government had not walked away from the Broadwater redevelopment and understood the critical nature of tourism to the region, particularly in the fallout of the Global Financial Crisis. Construction activity was down but renewed investment by the private sector would make the Broadwater project viable.

- Mr Brinsmead said Pearls had partnered with David Devine to undertake three new housing developments in Brisbane. The Premier congratulated Pearls on the partnership and said the government had recently announced the construction of a new ferry terminal at Northshore Riverside Park in Hamilton which would benefit the development sites. Mr Brinsmead welcomed this new development. Mr Madrers said Pearls and Mr Devine were also considering investing in entry-level housing projects in Melbourne.

- Mr Madrers said Pearls would soon launch a low cost housing solution suited for use in Indigenous communities. Mr Brinsmead said the company would be demonstration the technology to both the Federal and State Governments, Key features were the speed and ease of construction. The Premier said the concept sounded interesting and invited the company to discuss its proposal with the Housing Department. The Premier mentioned the Hon Senator Mark Arbib would likely be interested too, given his responsibilities as the Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness.

- Mr Madrers said members of the Bhangoo family – the owners of Pearls – were planning to make the Gold Coast their principal place of residence. They intended to apply for a State-sponsored visa. The Premier said she had been briefed on the matter and the family’s place of residence was important. The state wanted to facilitate development and would have a dialogue with the family.

- Mr Linford said he had discussed the issue with Department of Immigration and Citizenship officials who had recommended the family apply under the 457 visa category which would grant them access to Australia for four years. During that time the family could apply for an investment visa or a visa sponsored by a company (Pearls Australasia) or the state.

- Mr Brinsmead said the family was focused on permanency. Mr Linford said given the processing time required for other visa types, using the 457 visa option first would mean the family could take up residence sooner. A permanent visa application could be made in parallel. Mr Linford said he would put the family’s immigration in contact with DIAC. The Premier said it would be easier for the state to sponsor a visa if the family was already located on the Gold Coast. The Premier asked that her office be informed of the visa category the family decided to pursue.

- The Premier outlined how she would be promoting the Gold Coast’s bid to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games while in Delhi. The Premier said the bid
proposal included constructing an athlete's village at Griffith University. Mr Brinsmead said Pearls would be interested in that project.

- The High Commissioner asked about the Pearls Group's interests in education. Mr Jai said the company has medical, dental and hotel management colleges in India. It was interested in partnering with quality education providers in Australia. The Premier outlined plans to develop a new tertiary public hospital which would be co-located with a private hospital on the Sunshine Coast. Companies bidding to develop these facilities might look for private investors.

- The Premier said the government recognised the importance of tourism to Queensland's economy. She had launched a new Queensland Tourism brand on 28 September 2010. A Gold Coast specific component would be launched before the end of 2010. Pearls representatives would be invited to the launch.
MEETING WITH BHUSHAN STEEL LIMITED

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm
Venue: Meeting Room
Shangri-La’s – Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road
Connaught Place
New Delhi 110001
India

ATTENDEES

The Honourable Anna Bligh  
Premier of Queensland

Mr Chris Taylor  
Principal Media Advisor, Office of the Premier

Mr Neeraj Singal  
Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Bhushan Steel Limited

Mr Anil Ahuja  
Senior Vice President, Bhushan Steel Limited

His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese  
AO  
Australian High Commissioner

Mr Peter Linford  
Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner & Minister Commercial, Australian High Commission

Mr Rod Solomons  
Trade and Investment Commissioner – India

Mr Sudhir Basavaraju  
Principal Business Development Officer, Queensland Trade and Investment Office

Mr Brendan Hodgson  
Second Secretary, Australian High Commission

KEY POINTS

• Bhushan Steel Limited is India’s largest manufacturer of auto-grade steel and India’s 3rd largest secondary steel producer.

• This meeting encouraged Bhushan Steel to further consider Queensland for investment into coking coal mines to supply their steel and power plant operations in India.

• On 22 September 2010, Bhushan Steel made a takeover bid for complete ownership of Bowen Energy. Bhushan Steel is offering 10c per share in the unconditional offer which begins on October 7 and ends a month later. Bowen’s share price rose by 0.048c to 10.5c in early afternoon trade after the bid was announced.

• Bhushan Steel are identifying more coking coal mines in Australia to supply their recently completed state-of-the-art US$2 billion steel and power plant in Orissa, India.
MEETING SUMMARY

- Mr Singal and Mr Ahuja outlined Bhushan Steel's operations in India and its investments in mining tenements in Queensland. They said the company aimed to become a major mining entity.

- The Premier detailed the Queensland Government's plan to privatise its freight business. The float was aimed at stimulating private investment to expand the rail network. New investment was critical to the success of the state's coal industry however the state did not have the resources to fund the necessary expansion.

- The Premier said that after announcing its privatisation plan, the government had been approached by a consortium of the 14 largest coal companies which was interested in purchasing the business. On further examination however, the consortium had declined to submit a formal offer. Mr Ahuja said Bhushan Steel was pleased QR National would be publicly floated. The company had been concerned that the consortium's bid might have led to smaller companies being excluded from the network.

- The Premier said that after announcing its privatisation plan, the government had been approached by a consortium of the 14 largest coal companies which was interested in purchasing the business. On further examination however, the consortium had declined to submit a formal offer. Mr Ahuja said Bhushan Steel was pleased QR National would be publicly floated. The company had been concerned that the consortium's bid might have led to smaller companies being excluded from the network.

- The Premier said the government had shared the company's concerns and was also pleased with the outcome. The government anticipated the float would take place at the end of November 2010. Strong independent and retail investment was expected. The company was likely to list in the top 50 of the Australian Stock Exchange.

- Mr Singal asked if the government would retain a stake in the company. The Premier said the government would retain between 25 and 40 per cent of the business. It would sell down this shareholding progressively to get the best value for taxpayers. The government would not retain control of the company.

- Mr Singal asked how freight rates would be calculated, saying that in India a flat per kilometre rate applied. The Premier said standard Australian practice would continue. Customers would need to negotiate freight rates directly with service providers. While the rate of return for below rail infrastructure was capped. The haulage rate for above rail infrastructure was a competitive market. QR National and Asciano bid for contracts as they became available.

- Mr Ahuja asked about the expansion of the Gladstone Port. The Premier said coal terminal facilities would be expanded at the Wiggins Island site. This development would be funded by a consortium of coal companies but regulated by the government-owned Gladstone Port Authority. Mr Ahuja asked how long this would take to develop. The Premier said plans were at an early stage but the project was expected to take three to four years. Mr Ahuja said that timeline would suite Bhushan Steel. The company would register as a user of the new facility and meet with the Gladstone Port Authority when its representatives were next in Queensland.

- Mr Ahuja asked about the sale of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal. The Premier said the government was selling the asset to generate infrastructure investment.

- Mr Ahuja said Mark Sheppard, Bhushan Steel's Director of Exploration, had raised several issues pertaining to government charges on the company's tenements. Mr Ahuja said the company accepted these charges in principle but objected to their retrospective application. It also objected to charges levied on tenements that were not ultimately granted. It was the company's view that charges associated with test bore holes should be differentiated by resource. Mr Ahuja passed the Premier a letter from Mr Sheppard detailing these concerns. The Premier undertook to seek a detailed written response was sent to Mr Sheppard, copied to Mr Ahuja.
Mr Singal said the company had experienced problems over a recalcitrant management director in Australia who had since been removed from the company. The company had made a complaint to the Australia Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) over the matter. Mr Ahuja said he hoped the matter was now resolved but was unhappy about the delays it had caused.
FRIENDS OF QUEENSLAND LUNCHEON

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 1:00pm - 2:30pm
Venue: Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel
   Island Bar (located at the lobby level)
   19 Ashoka Road
   Connaught Place
   New Delhi 110001

"Friends of Queensland" is a term used to describe Queensland alumni, Queensland education and training institutions in India and Indian educational institutions which have agreements or partnerships in place with Queensland institutions.

EVENT SUMMARY

- Reinforced the message, especially to parents, that Queensland is a safe and quality destination for Indian students, whom we warmly welcome. Announced the Queensland-India Friendship Scholarship Program.

KEY POINTS

- This event promoted the value the Queensland Government places on education and research exchange between Queensland and India, its significant contribution to research, academic and student exchanges and institutional linkages, as well as long-term friendships, trade relationships and business opportunities.

- Indian alumni from Queensland's nine universities were invited to this event. These alumni are rising in their fields and can play a key role as ambassadors and advocates for Queensland.

- Announced the inaugural 2011 Queensland-India Friendship Scholarships program (the Program) at this event. The program is funded by Queensland Education and Training International (QETI), part of Trade and Investment Queensland, in partnership with Queensland's nine universities. The program may be delivered in future years subject to budget allocation and the continued support of Queensland universities.

- Scholarships will be awarded to high-performing Indian university students from lower socio-economic backgrounds to study in Queensland for one semester. Scholarship recipients will be selected by Queensland universities in early 2011.

- The Program will provide $10,000 to each Queensland university wishing to participate in the program, with a maximum total Queensland Government investment of $90,000. The participating universities will waive tuition fees (approximately $10,000) and support the welfare of the students during their time in Queensland (approximately 18-20 weeks).

- The Queensland Government recognises that international students contribute significantly to the cultural and social fabric of our State. The safety, security and wellbeing of students during their stay in Queensland is of paramount importance to the Government and to more than 300 Queensland institutions that currently welcome international students.
- The formation of the Student Experience Reference Group has enabled the Queensland Government to be proactive in identifying and addressing issues relevant to this important part of the Queensland community.

- The Queensland Government reinforces the message that Queensland is a safe and quality destination for Indian students. University and colleges campuses have their own security, and the Queensland Police Service is committed to providing a safe environment for all international visitors and students.
19th COMMONWEALTH GAMES AUSTRALIAN TEAM RECEPTION

Date: Friday 1 October 2010
Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Venue: Australian High Commission, 1/50G, Shanti Path, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

KEY SPEAKERS
The Honourable Anna Bligh Premier of Queensland
The Honourable Mark Arbib MP Australian Federal Minister for Sport
His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO Australian High Commissioner to India
Mr Steve Moneghetti Chef de Mission, Australian Team
Mr Sam Coffa AM JP President, Australian Commonwealth Games Association

EVENT SUMMARY
- Presented a three minute speech welcoming the Australian athletes to Delhi and wishing them well. Promoted the bid for the Gold Coast to host the 2018 Commonweal Games and encouraged all attendees to promote the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games bid.

KEY POINTS
- Approximately 600 people attended this reception, including many members of the Australian Commonwealth Games Team including athletes, coaches and officials and key Australian and international media covering the Delhi Games.
- The function was to welcome the Australian Team to Delhi. At this function the Team was introduced, the Flag Bearer named and athletes were chosen to deliver the Athletes Oath.
- Noted support for the Australian Team but also support for the Gold Coast’s Bid to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Hosting the Games would put the Gold Coast and Australia in the spotlight and provide athletes with the opportunity to compete on home ground, surrounded by friends and family.

BACKGROUND
- Two cities are bidding for the 2018 Commonwealth Games: the Gold Coast, Australia and Hambantota, Sri Lanka.
- The winning host city will be announced on 11 November 2011 in St Kitts.
PRESENTATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION

Date: Saturday 2 October 2010
Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Venue: Ashok Hotel
Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri
New Delhi 110021 INDIA

SPEAKERS

The Honourable Anna Bligh
Premier of Queensland

The Honourable Mark Abib
Federal Minister for Sport

Mr Mark Stockwell
Chairman, Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid Board

Mr Sam Coffa, AM JP
President, Australian Commonwealth Games Association

KEY POINTS


• One other potential host city – Hambantota in Sri Lanka – has also announced its intention to officially bid for the Games.

• Should the Gold Coast bid be successful, the State Government has committed to significant sporting and other infrastructure upgrades for the region.

• These would include a new velodrome, an upgrade of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, further works on the new Carrara stadium to accommodate track and field, construction of accommodation for the Athletes Village at Gold Coast Parklands in Southport and the temporary conversion of existing non-sporting facilities for use as squash courts and boxing and weightlifting arenas.

• Additionally, the Queensland and Federal Governments have committed funding for other associated infrastructure including the Gold Coast Rapid Transit network.

• The Gold Coast is ideally suited to stage an event of the magnitude of a Commonwealth Games.
• The 2018 Games has the potential to create and support up to 30,000 jobs for the coastal region and would provide clear benefits across a range of industries, not the least of which is tourism which is critical to the Gold Coast economy.

• Additionally, a Gold Coast Commonwealth Games would create history as the first event of its type held outside of a capital city in a regional area.

EVENT SUMMARY

• The International Commonwealth Games Federation met in New Delhi to stage its annual general assembly which coincided with the staging of the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

• Traditionally at this annual meeting, potential bidders for future Games are given the opportunity to make an initial presentation and state their intention to formally bid for the Games.

• Both the Gold Coast bid team and representatives from Sri Lanka were invited to present.

• Sri Lankan officials declined the invitation.

• However, the assembly gave the opportunity for Queensland representatives to present the state's initial bid to all 71 Commonwealth delegates.

• Bidding countries are allocated 20 minutes in which to make their presentation.

• The Queensland bid team used this allocated time to show delegates a DVD presentation split into two segments. Segment one – with a running time of four minutes – highlighted the Gold Coast's sporting and other infrastructure, industries, natural environment and natural potential as a Commonwealth Games host city. The Premier then delivered a three minute speech (see attached) before introducing the second DVD segment featuring Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke, a former Commonwealth and Olympic Gold-medal winning athlete who is well known and regarded by delegate countries.

• Additional speakers then included Sam Coffa, Mark Abib and Mark Stockwell.

• Commonwealth Games Federation President Mike Fennell commented on the impressive strength of the delegation and the calibre of the Queensland representatives.

• The Premier also took the opportunity to approach and speak with His Royal Highness Prince Edward who said that he was impressed with the Gold Coast's presentation.

• The Premier and Mr Stockwell then remained at the delegation table for the duration of the event, viewing a presentation from the Isle of Man delegation –
hosts of the Youth Commonwealth Games in 2012 – the Solomon Islands which pitched for the 2016 Youth Commonwealth Games and Saint Kitts and Nevis, the location for the announcement of the successful 2018 host in 2011.

- The Premier and Mr Stockwell then took the opportunity to tour the Gold Coast's official bid display which was located in a key area of the Hotel Ashok's first level, adjacent to a registration centre which each Commonwealth delegate must visit to collect Games accreditation during the Delhi Games. The display area will remain staffed by bid team officials for the duration of the Delhi Games.

- The next phase in the Gold Coast's bid for the 2018 Games will be the delivery of the official Bid Book to the Federation by May 2011, followed by the announcement of the successful host city in November 2011.
DINNER WITH THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

Date: Saturday 2 October 2010
Time: 7:00pm – 9:30pm
Venue: Private dining room – 19 Oriental Avenue Restaurant
Shangri-La's Eros Hotel
19 Ashoka Road, New Delhi

KEY INVITED GUESTS

The Honourable Mark Arbib MP Australian Federal Minister for Sport
Hon Mike Fennell OJ, CD President, Executive Board Commonwealth Games Federation
His Royal Highness Prince Tunku Imran Vice President, Executive Board Commonwealth Games Federation
Mr Mike Hooper Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Games Federation
Mr John Hoskins Regional Vice President - Americas, Commonwealth Games Federation
Mr Hemasiri Fernando Regional Vice President - Asia, Commonwealth Games Federation
Mrs Fortuna Belrose Regional Vice President - Caribbean, Commonwealth Games Federation
Mr Ian Emmerson OBE Regional Vice President - Europe, Commonwealth Games Federation
Mr Vui Tapasu Leung Wai Regional Vice President - Oceania, Commonwealth Games Federation

EVENT SUMMARY

• This dinner was a critical opportunity to reinforce the Gold Coast bid amongst the regional Vice Presidents, particularly those from Africa and the Caribbean, who influence important voting blocs.

• This dinner was an opportunity to reiterate official Queensland support for the Delhi Games as well as Queensland's dedication to the Commonwealth Games ideal.

• In attendance were key officials from the Commonwealth Games Executive Board. This presented an opportunity to network and build important relationships which will be of benefit for the Gold Coast bid.
MEETING WITH COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION AND 2018 GOLD COAST BID TEAM

Date: Sunday 3 October

Time: 8am

Venue: Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

The Premier met with Mark Stockwell, Chair of the Gold Coast 2018 Bid team, Mike Peters, Bid Team CEO and Commonwealth Games Federation President Mike Fennell, Vice President Prince Imran and CEO Mike Hooper to discuss eligibility requirements for the Gold Coast bid. The Premier and the Bid Team representatives and Federation chiefs discussed the Gold Coast’s bid, including sports development grants.

ATTEND BUSINESS CLUB AUSTRALIA VIP RECEPTION

Date: Sunday 3 October 2010

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: Australian High Commissioner’s Lawn
Australian High Commission Compound
No 1/50 G Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110-021 India

ATTENDEES

The Honourable Mark Arbib MP
Australian Federal Minister for Sport

His Excellency Mr Peter Varghese AO
Australian High Commissioner to India

Professor David de Kretser AC
Governor of Victoria

Mr Peter Yuile
Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director Government and Corporate Services, Australian Trade Commission

Mr Peter Linford
Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner & Minister Commercial, Australian High Commission

Mr Rod Solomons
Trade and Investment Commissioner – India

Mr Kieren Perkins OAM
BCA India 2010 Ambassador
EVENT SUMMARY

- This reception served as an opportunity to meet the VIP Business Club Australia guests, who were also attending the opening ceremony of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

- This reception was attended by key people from various industry sectors in India and was an excellent chance to network and to discuss business opportunities of interest in Queensland.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES OPENING CEREMONY

Date: Sunday 3 October 2010
Time: 7.00pm – 10.30pm
Venue: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
New Delhi

The Premier attended the 15th Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony as a guest of the Australian High Commissioner.
ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY
ANNA BLIGH MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
AT
COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2018 BID PRESENTATION
COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

Saturday 2 October 2010
2.30pm
Ashok Hotel, Delhi
Hello, I'm Anna Bligh, I'm the Premier of Queensland Australia and you've just seen our bid city, the Gold Coast.

And I would like to acknowledge:

- HRH Prince Edward
- Mr Mike Fennell, President, Commonwealth Games Federation
- HRH Prince Imran
- The Executive Board, Commonwealth Games Federation
- Commonwealth Games Association delegates

I'm excited to be here in Delhi at this special time.

I have brought with me Australia's great hopes for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

We know from experience that these Games are the ideal platform from which a city can transform itself into something bigger and better.

Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, the state I govern, grew into a world class city after hosting the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

Now, we wish to set a new precedent.

We believe the time is right for a regional city in Australia to be considered for this prized opportunity.

Our bid city is the Gold Coast.

It is located in the fastest growing region of our fastest growing state, the state of Queensland – a modern, progressive, ethnically diverse and environmentally spectacular part of the world.

We are custodians of the world-heritage-listed Daintree Rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef, one of the world's natural wonders.

And we lay claim to being a vibrant, harmonious multicultural society.

More than a quarter of the Gold Coast's half million residents were born overseas, so international visitors feel immediately welcome.

It is a thriving metropolis, with residential high rises, safe business districts and popular entertainment precincts.
As you have just seen it is also blessed abundantly by Mother Nature. The Gold Coast overlooks the Pacific Ocean with its amazing marine life and truly magnificent beaches.

It is sheltered by a sub tropical hinterland.

It is a surfer’s paradise, a shopping haven and a tourist destination.

People come from all over the world to experience the sun and the surf, the theme parks and the national parks.

I grew up on the Gold Coast – it is my home town and I know it well.

I have confidence in the city and its people.

Gold Coasters possess a wonderful energy.

They know how to enjoy life and they love their sport.

They are also well practised at hosting international events.

More than 30,000 runners converged on the city this year, hundreds of them from overseas, to compete in the Gold Coast Marathon.

And elite sports teams from 38 countries have chosen Gold Coast city as their training venue due to its near perfect conditions.

Because of the city’s proactive response to growth, quality infrastructure is already in place, including world class stadiums.

And a new rail network linking the planned Village to many venues is due to open in 2014, so efficient, reliable, safe transport, accommodation and sporting facilities are assured.

We are well positioned to start work on new facilities for the Games, all close to an Athlete’s Village we hope to make the greenest and most sustainable in the world.

The time is right.

The Asian Pacific nation of Australia is ready, willing and able to host an event of this magnitude in one of our most popular cities.
And in doing so, we hope to provide a model — a successful, affordable blueprint — for other smaller cities to follow.

We have the very best people working on the Games, including Commonwealth gold medallists Ron Clarke, now the Mayor of the city, and Mark Stockwell, our Bid Chairman.

The Queensland Government is behind the bid and running a successful Games. We know what is required.

So, I confidently present to you the city of the Gold Coast, Australia.

And now, let's hear from the city's Mayor, Ron Clarke.

Premier's address is followed by a video featuring Ron Clarke.
Premier makes official bid for 2018 Commonwealth Games

NEW DELHI: Premier Anna Bligh has today taken the Gold Coast's bid to stage the 2018 Commonwealth Games to members of the International Games Committee in Delhi, highlighting the city's natural fit as host venue.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Games Federation Assembly meeting in Delhi – attended by representatives of each Commonwealth country – Ms Bligh highlighted the coastal strip's international standing as an elite sports training venue and plans to build future sporting infrastructure, as well as informing delegates about the city's spectacular natural environment and safe reputation.

"The time is right for the Gold Coast," Ms Bligh said.

"I think all Queenslanders understand the sheer magnitude of what hosting an event like the 2018 Commonwealth Games could do for our state and for proof you need look no further than the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane.

"We grew into an international class city after those Games and we know from experience that the 2018 Games – which would be the first held in a regional city should the Gold Coast be successful – are the ideal platform for the coast to transform itself into even bigger and better things.

"We have been able today to show the Commonwealth delegates why the Gold Coast is truly up to the task.

"The work carried out by our bid team in the lead up to today's official pitch to the Games Assembly showed the Gold Coast is well placed to stage a successful Games and we have what it takes to host such a massive event."

The Gold Coast is facing off against the city of Hambantota in Sri Lanka and Ms Bligh said the competition was not to be underestimated.

"Hambantota is a developing city but their bid to delegates today has shown they have firm plans to host the Games also and nobody should just assume the Gold Coast is home and hosed.

"There's still a lot of work to do before our official bid book is lodged in May 2011 and the Commonwealth Games Federation announces the successful country in November next year."

Ms Bligh said a range of infrastructure projects will be undertaken on the Gold Coast should the bid be successful, bringing millions in future infrastructure to the region and creating thousands of jobs.

These include:

- A new velodrome
- An upgrade of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre
- Further works on the new Carrara stadium to accommodate track and field
• Construction of accommodation for the Athletes Village at Gold Coast Parklands in Southport
• Temporary conversion of existing non-sporting facilities for use as squash courts and boxing and weightlifting arenas

"This would not only be a huge boost to infrastructure on the coastal strip – it's infrastructure that builds for the future beyond 2018.

"For example after the Games, the accommodation built at Parklands for the Athletes Village would provide new high-density housing and office space for the region, close to Griffith University, the new Gold Coast University Hospital and the future Rapid Transit Stations.

"This would be a win-win for the Gold Coast and shows how smart planning could turn Commonwealth Games facilities into long-term infrastructure for the Coast.

"It's estimated more than 30,000 jobs would be generated if the Games go ahead on the Coast, across a range of industries including construction, manufacturing, recreation, cultural and business services.

"That's not an opportunity our government is about to overlook."

Ms Bligh was joined at the Games Assembly by the 2018 bid team chief former Olympian and respected businessman Mark Stockwell. Ill health prevented Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke from making the journey to India however he addressed the delegation in a pre-recorded video message.

"There is no doubt we've got some competition but our sleeves are rolled up and we are getting on with the job of securing the Games because I can think of no better place than the Gold Coast to put on a show for the world," Ms Bligh said.

October 2 2010

Media: 0419 710 874
Queensland Government funds biotech research links with India

NEW DELHI: Queensland scientists are expected to make important leaps forward in their understanding and treatment of human and plant diseases thanks to more than $700,000 in State Government funding for joint biotechnology research projects with India.

Speaking in India today, Premier Anna Bligh said the joint funding of the projects was an important milestone in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Queensland and India in June 2008.

"As part of our Memorandum of Understanding, Queensland and India committed to a collaborative science and technology program that would not only support joint research projects in biotechnology but create opportunities for our researchers," she said.

"These opportunities will allow them to contribute to important research underway in both countries and broaden their international experience and networks."

The Queensland Government will contribute:

- $250,000 towards a project identifying new ways to treat depression and anxiety by the Queensland Brain Institute at The University of Queensland and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Department of Biological Sciences in Mumbai
- $160,000 towards a project to assess potential new treatments for obesity, heart disease and diabetes by the University of Southern Queensland and the Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal University in Karnataka
- $248,352 towards a project to develop rice and tomatoes resistant to the soil fungus *Rhizoctonia solani* by the University of Queensland and the National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology in New Delhi

"India is now coming into its own in terms of research capacity with scientific output growing significantly over the past decade and predicted to surpass most G8 nations between 2015 and 2020," Ms Bligh said.

"This is an exciting time for Queensland to be partnering with Indian research institutions - together we can pool our resources and expertise and make great advances in science."

Ms Bligh said the funding would also enable early career researchers Dr Abdul Hafeez-Baig and Dr Sharard Rajendaran, both from the University of Southern Queensland, to further their work in Indian institutions.

"We will provide $32,500 to enable Dr Hafeez-Baig to spend 12 weeks early next year at the PSG Super Speciality Hospital in Coimbatore to fine tune a method to remotely monitor cardiac patients.

Dr Rajendaran will receive $38,000 to spend 16 weeks from November this year at the Manipal College of Pharmaceutical Sciences to investigate new treatments for obesity and diabetes."
“Queensland and India continue to grapple with rising rates of obesity, heart disease and diabetes — these new collaborations will open up the possibilities of new treatments and ultimately improve the overall health of our communities.”

Ms Bligh discussed the research projects and the strengthening science relationship between India and Queensland during her meeting today with India’s Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Shri Prithvirai Chavan.

Media contact: 0419 710 874
New scholarships give Indian students a chance to study in Queensland

NEW DELHI: A new Queensland Government scholarship program will give financially disadvantaged Indian students a chance to expand their horizons by undertaking a semester of study in Queensland.

Premier Anna Bligh announced the establishment of the new Queensland – India Friendship Scholarships program, at a function for alumni of Queensland universities in New Delhi.

“India is a very important educational partner for Queensland,” Ms Bligh said.

“In 2009, more than 20,000 Indian students chose Queensland as their study destination of choice.

“The Queensland – India Friendship Scholarships will provide an opportunity to further raise the profile of Queensland as a safe, quality study destination for Indian students in Australia.

“The scholarships will be awarded to high-performing Indian university students whose socio-economic situations would normally prevent them from accessing international education.

“In collaboration with our State’s nine universities, our government is providing funding for the selected students to come to Queensland to participate in study or in research for one semester in 2011.

“The students will be provided with a living allowance and all fees and other expenses will be covered.

“Queensland universities have already begun working with their university partners in India to select students for the scholarships and we hope to announce the recipients later this year – and I look forward to welcoming them to our state.

“I strongly believe this new program will encourage deeper diplomatic and trade ties between our state and India and give students a positive study experience in Queensland.”

Queensland Education and Training International (QETI) - part of Trade and Investment Queensland - is continuing to develop a suite of scholarships which include incentives for Queensland students to undertake international study experiences.

Media contact: 0419 710 874
Premier’s visit paves the way for stronger relationships with India

NEW DELHI: Premier Anna Bligh’s visit to India to deliver the first formal pitch for the Gold coast’s Commonwealth Games bid will kick off a number of visits to India this month by Queensland business and government representatives.

Ms Bligh said Brisbane’s Lord Mayor Campbell Newman and Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale were set to sign a sister city agreement with Hyderabad, India on 5 October.

“Hyderabad is known globally as a hub for India’s IT industry, and it is also home to a number of biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies - all areas where Queensland also has strong capabilities and interest,” Ms Bligh said.

“This three-way agreement will be the first of its kind in the world.

“The sister city agreement is aimed at further enhancing trade relations between Queensland and Hyderabad.

“The signing of the sister city agreement will take place between the Mayors of Brisbane and Ipswich and the Mayor of the Greater Hyderabad Municipality, Ms Banda Karthika Reddy.

“I congratulate the Mayors of two of Queensland’s most vibrant cities on their efforts to strengthen our state’s ties with this important trading and business region in India.”

The Premier also highlighted a Queensland Government trade mission between 4 and 9 October, that will give 10 delegates from eight Queensland businesses an opportunity to attend the Indian Green Building Congress 2010 in Chennai.

“The Indian Green Building Congress is a three-day trade exhibition that showcases the latest green building technologies, products and services.

“It encompasses a conference program that will attract a large number of international visitors.

“This trade mission will be led by Trade and Investment Queensland and will promote Queensland’s world-class building and construction industry and our niche products and services.

“In particular it will highlight our green building products and expertise in design, fit-out and construction.”

The trade mission also includes a visit to Hyderabad so business delegates can attend meetings with key Indian firms in the property development sector and attendance at a building and construction sector forum with the Confederation of India Industries.

Media contact: 0419 710 874
Rival hasn't withdrawn

BRISBANE: Acting Queensland Premier Paul Lucas says Sri Lanka have not withdrawn their bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games despite the Gold Coast's only current rival not making a presentation.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh led a team of four on Saturday to make their first presentation to delegates from all 71 participating countries and territories of the Commonwealth Games Federation to host the 2018 Games. Mr Lucas told reporters in Brisbane that the Gold Coast's only current rival, Sri Lanka, declined to make a presentation to the delegates. "But it certainly hasn't withdrawn its bid and we need to be very, very careful about that," he said.
$1bn bill if bid to host is successful

TAXPAYERS face a $1 billion bill for Australia to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games, after the Gold Coast emerged as the front-runner yesterday.

Australia’s only rival to host the Games, Sri Lanka, failed to make its formal pitch to the Games Federation in New Delhi yesterday.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh made her slick 20-minute presentation without competition. But speaking from Delhi yesterday, Ms Bligh warned against complacency.

“I don’t think for one minute that we’re streets ahead of the competition, but I certainly like to think that our presentation yesterday in the absence of any competition has put us well in front on Day One,” Ms Bligh said.

“I’m actually a bit disappointed about [the Sri Lanka’s] withdrawal, because I wanted to see their strengths and weaknesses.”

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa had been expected to address the federation’s general assembly in support of Hambantota’s bid on Saturday, but pulled out at the last minute. The shock withdrawal had many, including Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke, predicting the southern Sri Lankan city was considering withdrawing from the race.

Ms Bligh conceded holding the games would come at a financial cost of about $1.1 billion, including $613.3 million to the 2010 Melbourne games and $247.3m to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

While the bulk of the Commonwealth’s help would be confined to security and intelligence matters, Ms Bligh said, Canberra had already begun contributing through its grant to the Gold Coast’s Carrara Stadium to house the city’s new AFL franchise.

The Gold Coast would be the first regional Australian city to host a Commonwealth Games.

“Sydney was the first to have that honour, hosting the then British Empire Games in 1938, followed by Perth (in 1962), Brisbane (1982) and Melbourne (2006).”

With a 2001 population of 525,280, Hambantota district is undergoing a period of rapid growth, with world governments aiding its push to become a major port for shipping between Asia and Europe.

Moreover, the Premier warned that many in the Commonwealth Games Federation were eager to share the “transformative” power of the event with the island’s less-developed members. “I think they’ll consider a range of interim solutions,” she said. “We’re certainly not going to be putting out feet up.”

The federal government traditionally tops up state spending on international events, contributing $613.3 million to the 2006 Melbourne Games and $247.3m to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.
Australian Games chief Steve Moneghetti with Petria Thomas
Coast takes early lead in Games race

Gold Coast Bulletin
04-Oct-2010
Page: 22
Editorials
Market: Gold Coast QLD
Circulation: 39593
Type: Regional
Size: 129.88 sq.cms

Editorial

Coast takes early lead in Games race

Gold Coast Bulletin

As Coast Mayor Ron Clarke has pointed out previously, the City could pretty much stage the Games right now if necessary. We already have most of the infrastructure needed to host such an event, but by 2015 the light rail will be in place, Carrara stadium will be finished and further venues and support systems, worth about half a billion dollars, built.

And it will all be done on time.

The next big step is the presentation of our bid book and it may be at this stage that the Sri Lankans will pull a rabbit out of the hat.

With the Chinese investing hugely in new port facilities in Hambantota, they may well back that city in its bid – a backing that would no doubt carry considerable weight with the committee and something we have to be prepared to counter.

We must not assume the Games are ours and we need to understand there is a long way to go yet before any final decision is made.

However as things stand, particularly after the weekend’s events, we are entitled to be cautiously optimistic.

We are serious about wanting these Games and now the Coast must continue to keep pushing its case in any and every way possible to ensure it has the best and widest hearing, so that when the time comes, we will be able to celebrate in the way we believe we deserve.
Sri Lanka not out of race

ACTING Queensland Premier Paul Lucas says Sri Lanka has not withdrawn their bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games despite the Gold Coast's only current rival not making a presentation. Queensland Premier Anna Bligh led a team of four on Saturday to make their first presentation to delegates of the Commonwealth Games Federation to host the 2018 Games.
Delhi is a city that is ready for the Commonwealth Games, according to Premier Anna Bligh.

Speaking from the host city before last night's opening ceremony, Ms Bligh said Delhi was prepared for the Games despite reports in recent weeks of incomplete venues, security concerns and an outbreak of dengue fever.

"What I'm seeing over here in Delhi, as someone who has visited numerous times in recent years, is a city transformed," she said.

"It looks absolutely beautiful. So far, I couldn't fault any part of the organisation or the security."

She said the Australian athletes she had spoken to were excited to be there after the anxiety in the lead-up to the Games.

"They arrived in a city looking much better than they expected after early concerns," said Ms Bligh who leaves Delhi today.
Coast streaks ahead as rival snubs bid meeting

MATTHEW KILDORAN & LUCY ARDERN

The Gold Coast's rival for the 2018 Games snubbed an important presentation ceremony while Australia's bid received the royal stamp of approval.

In a 20-minute presentation to the 71 delegates of the Commonwealth Games Association, the Gold Coast bid team enthusiastically sold the city's ability to host the Games.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who led the charge in Delhi, said Prince Edward was impressed by the Gold Coast's bid.

"He was very complimentary of the Gold Coast's bid," she said.

Further bolstering the city's chances of securing the Games, rival bidder Sri Lanka failed to give a presentation for unknown reasons.

Ms Palaszczuk said the snub was disappointing but an advantage for Australia's chances.

"I was looking forward to getting a glimpse of what the opposition's (bid) was like - what their strengths are, what their weaknesses are and how to counter that," she said.

"A number of delegates had big question marks about why Sri Lanka chose not to do that. They were disappointed and surprised Sri Lanka chose not to accept the invitation.

"The delegates felt knowing about the Gold Coast, what it is able to offer and where our bid is a serious one. They left knowing nothing about Sri Lanka."

Mayor Ron Clarke, who did not attend the presentation for health reasons but was featured in a DVD shown to the delegates, said it had to be an advantage.

"One would expect the (Commonwealth Games Association) committee would expect a city that is preparing a bid for a Games could put together a presentation of what they will do," he said.

Ms Palaszczuk said it was the only thing to celebrate as weight would be placed on the presentation of each city's bid book next May.

She said the Gold Coast bid team, led by Mark Stockwell, would speak to each delegate before the end of the Delhi Games and would visit each of their countries before May to lobby their case.

Commonwealth Games Bid Company CEO Mark Peters said the message of the presentation was simple - the Gold Coast will be ready.

"Given what has happened in Delhi, there is a big challenge for the Commonwealth Games organisation itself from the bad publicity," he said.

Mr Peters described Mr Clarke's speech at the presentation as 'inspirational'.

"He could not have done any better and he is an icon of the Games," he said.

Delegates will be on the Gold Coast for an official visit between June and October.

Editorial, P22
More Games coverage, P38-37
A colourful dress rehearsal on Saturday ahead of the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony.

Prince Charles meets members of the Australian track team in the Games Village during a tour of the facilities yesterday.

Emily Hurtz at hockey training.

Major Dhyan Chand.

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) licensed copy.
Ref: 79623892
Delhi no-show by rivals puts Coast ahead on points

Sri ya later

MATTHEW KILLORAN & LUCY ARDERN

The Gold Coast's rival for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota, has failed to present its case to the organising committee in Delhi.

The no-show has widely been seen as giving us an edge with the head of the bid, Premier Anna Bligh, telling the committee that if the Gold Coast was awarded the Games, it would be ready.

Ms Bligh said she was disappointed our rivals failed to front up because she was looking forward to seeing their strengths and weaknesses.

"I was looking forward to getting a glimpse of what the opposition's (bid) was like -- what their strengths are, what their weaknesses are -- and how to counter that," she said.

"A number of delegates had big question marks about why Sri Lanka chose not to do that."

"They were disappointed and surprised Sri Lanka chose not to accept the invitation."

The snub has also puzzled Coast Mayor Ron Clarke, who appeared on video at the presentation.

"One would expect that the (Commonwealth Games Association) committee would expect a city that is preparing a bid for Games could put together a presentation of what they will do," he said.

The first events of the 2010 Delhi Games were held yesterday with the Opening Ceremony staged overnight.
Goggles go on for rulers of the pool

JESSICA HALLORAN
IN NEW DELHI

COMEBACK king Geoff Huegill said the Australian swim team members are fired up and ready to take it to the rest of the world.

The Commonwealth Games champion and the 52-member team was hungry to top the medal table again.

"As a swim team we are looking forward to getting into competition over the next few days," Huegill said.

"We had a great camp in Kuala Lumpur. The atmosphere of the squad is great. Everyone is on a positive note and we are ready to take it to the rest of the world."

After making a phenomenal comeback to the pool, the 31-year-old butterflyer still pinches himself waking up in the games village. "For me everyday is quite exciting," he said.

"If you had have told me in 2004 that I'd be sitting here at the 2011 Commonwealth Games I would have laughed at you and said that you were dreaming."

"Obviously I love racing and that's one of the main reasons I got back into the pool."

"Being in a team environment like the Australian swim team is just one of the best moments throughout my whole life. To have a chance to do the sport and be a part of this in India makes every day an amazing journey. Once racing begins we'll all get into our race mode."

The goggles will be on and we will be focussed. At 31, Huegill is the oldest member of the predominantly young swim squad.

There are 31 debutants in the Australian team and head coach Leigh Nugent believes they can win more than 50 medals.

The Australian team won 17 gold medals at the Melbourne 2006 Games. However, Team England, with its huge funding boost, could threaten the Australians' mantle.

"Hopefully they will live up to the performances of past Commonwealth Games," Nugent said.

"Especially they will live up to the performances of past Commonwealth Games," Nugent said.

"We've had a long history of being on top in the swimming pool and it is a challenge for us. I think the competition very tough. I think this team can excel itself very well."

"The Delhi pool is said to be a bit cooler than usual but that is expected to be rectified in time for competition."

Meanwhile, Queensland premier Anna Bligh will meet with Commonwealth Games Federation officials in Delhi today to formally present the Gold Coast's bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

And Australia has a gold-plated asset in its bid - safety.

The other city bidding is Sri Lankan port Hamadura. It is widely thought the massive security issues of having the current Games in Delhi has made the Gold Coast a near certainty given mounting security risks in Asia.

"What I think the Commonwealth Games Federation will be looking for ... is a good event for athletes and spectators and that means great venues and security and safety - the Gold Coast and Australia offer that in a pretty irresistible package," Ms Bligh said.

"There are a lot of reasons why people would support a bid for Sri Lanka, a country coming out of civil war and looking to create great infrastructure."

"They will also take into account that Australia hosted a Games recently in Melbourne."
Frisked: Swimmer Geoff Huegill runs the gauntlet of security in the international section of the athletes' village.
Ready: Tartan-clad members of the welcoming committee at the athletes' village with a security guard, above left, and, above, workers queue to enter Nehru stadium.
PREMIER Anna Bligh yesterday took the Gold Coast's bid to stage the 2018 Commonwealth Games to the International Games Committee.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Games Federation Assembly meeting in Delhi, Ms Bligh highlighted the coastal strip's international standing as an elite sports training venue and plans to build sporting infrastructure, as well as stressing the city's natural environment and safe reputation.

"The time is right for the Gold Coast," Ms Bligh said.

"I think all Queenslanders understand the sheer magnitude of what hosting an event like the 2018 Commonwealth Games could do for our state."
Delhi into lockdown for Games

Matt Wade DELHI

RAZAABS and shopping malls in Delhi will shut down today and access to airspace restricted as the city goes into lockdown ahead of tonight's opening ceremony for the 10th Commonwealth Games.

At least 3000 heavily armed security personnel will be on hand at the main Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, backed by specialist anti-terror units and air support. Tens of thousands more police will be stationed around the city.

One of India's top security officials, Home Secretary G.K. Pillai, told The Sun-Herald he was very confident the main stadium would be secure.

"We have the National Security Guard and quick reaction teams inside the stadium and outside," he said. "We also have air cover, air defence, hovering over. Whatever security we have thought of we have put it in place."

It is understood about 150,000 police and paramilitary personnel, including rooftop snipers, will be deployed in Delhi during the games amid warnings of terrorist attacks.

Mr Pillai admitted "soft targets" like markets in faraway places were vulnerable but said security arrangements were in place to keep Delhi safe. "We have a blanket security cover all over, so let's see how it goes."

Delhi's 15 competition venues are a curious blend of security and celebration. The Inder Kumar Singh Stadium, which will host track, is protected by razor wire and guards stationed at sandbagged gun posts, but beyond the prison-like perimeter, billboards and flags invite Delhi to "come out and play".

The main Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium was fenced yesterday with heavily armed guards including commandos wearing battle fatigues and black balaclavas.

Amid concerns about security and traffic snarls, the Delhi government ordered all shops and businesses in the city to remain closed today and again on October 14 when the closing ceremony will be held.

Authorities have also imposed restrictions on the airspace within 300 kilometres of the capital between 5pm and 10pm tonight, and on October 14.

The Games have been marred by last-minute projects and allegations of corruption. In the past fortnight flights and официальн rooms in the athletes' village and the collapse of a bridge put a question mark over the participation of some teams.

The shooting of two tourists at the city's main mosque last month also raised security fears.

Despite the troubled build-up, organisers promise a spectacular opening ceremony that will showcase India's rich culture and history.

About 6000 performers drawn from each of India's 21 states will be involved. Bollywood is expected to feature prominently, including a dance performance by A.R. Rahman, who wrote the Oscar-winning score for the hit movie Slumdog Millionaire.

About 6700 athletes from 71 countries and territories are expected to take part in the 12-day event, the largest number of competitors at a Commonwealth Games.

Prince Charles, who is representing the Queen, will read a message from his mother which ends by "declaring the Games open".

Indian President Pratibha Patil will also make a speech.

Sports Minister Mark Arbib will represent the government at the opening. Queensland Premier Anna Bligh, who is promoting the Gold Coast bid for the 2018 Games, will also attend.

Mr Arbib got a taste of the security on Friday when he was frisked before entering the athletes' village.
Bligh peddles Gold Coast bid to Games committee

PREMIER Anna Bligh has taken the Gold Coast's bid to stage the 2018 Commonwealth Games to members of the International Games Committee in Delhi, highlighting the city's natural beauty as a host venue.

Speaking at the Commonwealth Games Federation Assembly meeting in Delhi – attended by representatives of each Commonwealth country – Ms Bligh highlighted the coastal strip's international standing as an elite sports training venue and plans to build future sporting infrastructure, as well as informing delegates about the city's spectacular natural environment and safe reputation.

"I think all Queenslanders understand the sheer magnitude of what hosting an event like the 2018 Commonwealth Games could do for our state and for proof you need look no further than the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane," she said.

"We grew into an international class city after those Games and we know from experience that the 2018 Games – which would be the first held in a regional city should the Gold Coast be successful – are the ideal platform for the coast to transform itself into even bigger and better things.

"We have been able today to show the Commonwealth delegates why the Gold Coast is truly up to the task."

The Gold Coast is facing off against the city of Hamilton in Sri Lanka.

-- AAP
Qld in mix for 2018 Games

AS DECEMBER counts down the months, Australia and Sri Lanka are preparing to battle over who should host the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh is in Delhi to promote the Gold Coast as the right place to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa is also presenting a bid.

"There's no room for complacency here. We have to fight every step of the way and convince every single voting delegate that we are the city for them and that's what we'll be doing here this weekend," Ms Bligh said.
Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has slapped down the one gold-plated asset which should deliver the Gold Coast the 2018 Commonwealth Games — safety.

Bligh will meet with Commonwealth Games Federation officials in Delhi today to formally present the Gold Coast's bid.

The other city bidding is Sri Lankan port Hambantota. It is widely thought the massive security issues of having the current Games in Delhi has made the Gold Coast a near certainty given mounting security risks in Asia.

Bligh is taking nothing for granted but has no hesitation in playing the security card.

"What I think the Commonwealth Games Federation will be looking for is a good event for athletes and spectators and that means great venues and security and safety — the Gold Coast and Australia offer that in a pretty irresistible package," she said.

"Every single vote will matter and not one vote will be taken for granted, We will talk to every single delegate.

"There are a lot of reasons why people would support a bid for Sri Lanka, a country coming out of civil war and looking to create great infrastructure.

"They will also take into account that Australia hosted a Games recently in Melbourne. We want this to be a transforming experience for the Gold Coast."

The Sri Lankan bid is being heavily supported by Chinese interests which are redeveloping Hambantota after it was devastated in the tsunami six years ago.

Bligh dismissed claims the Games were fading in lustre and not worth taxpayers' money: "The Games remain one of the biggest sporting events in the world. If you hold an event like that in your city it can really transform the place," she said.
Bligh bid gambles on safety card

ROBERT CRADDOCK
NEW DELHI
QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh walked just one sentence before saying she had delivered the Gold Coast the 2014 Commonwealth Games - safety and security.

Bligh will meet with Commonwealth Games officials today to formally present the Gold Coast's Games bid.

The other city bidding is Sri Lanka's Hambantota, but security issues of having the Games in Delhi has made the Gold Coast a near certainty, given mounting security risks in Asia.

Highly is taking nothing for granted, but has no hesitation in playing the security card.

"What I think the Commonwealth Games Federation will be looking for... is a good event for athletes and spectators and that means great venues and security and safety - the Gold Coast and Australia offer that in a pretty irresistible package," she said.

The Sri Lankan bid is being heavily supported by Chinese interests which are redeveloping Hambantota after it was devastated by the Asian tsunami.

The Gold Coast's bid boss Mark Stockwell has cautioned against assuming his bid would be successful.
2018 Games in our backyard?

It's hard not to spare a thought for Premier Anna Bligh, who headed off for India yesterday to plead a case for the Gold Coast to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Not only is she at the epicentre of the train wreck which is the 2010 event, but she's travelling with Federal Sport Minister Senators Mark Arbib, who most recently came to prominence as one of the unsmiling assassins who did the job on Kevin Rudd.

Any Labor leader in trouble in the polls would presumably be on tenderhooks sharing a lift with Arbib, let alone overseas travel. Arbib is at the epicentre of the blame for the 2010 Games which, as Julie Bishop might say, was the train wreck.

My eight and six-year-old sons build sturdier structures with timber off-cuts and chicken wire in the backyard than the 2010 Games village, with its many competing events and the promise of repeat performances, for which the media are starved of news.

Leaving aside the heavy political irony of the Premier's subcontinental jaunt, I've been amazed at the reaction in the wider media in the disaster which is the New Delhi Games.

India - and here I mean north of the Himalayas and who makes exceedingly good curries - is quite simply the most sublime nation on earth. Its bureaucracy makes our own look like a well-oiled piece of agricultural machinery, they let cows wander about in the street and palm-greasing is the principal national pastime.

My eight- and six-year-old sons build sturdier structures with timber off-cuts and chicken wire in the backyard than the 2010 Games village, with its many competing events and the promise of repeat performances, for which the media are starved of news.

Leaving aside the heavy political irony of the Premier's subcontinental jaunt, I've been amazed at the reaction in the wider media in the disaster which is the New Delhi Games.

India - and here I mean north of the Himalayas and who makes exceedingly good curries - is quite simply the most sublime nation on earth. Its bureaucracy makes our own look like a well-oiled piece of agricultural machinery, they let cows wander about in the street and palm-greasing is the principal national pastime.

Jeeves came to prominence as one of the unsmiling assassins who did the job on Kevin Rudd.

Jeremy Sollars
Daily News Deputy Editor

Mutton-busting might finally get the kind of international recognition it deserves
Anna puts safety first in Coast bid

ROBERT CRADDOCK

PRIME Minister Anna Bligh waited just one sentence before slamming down the one gold-plated asset which should deliver the Gold Coast the 2018 Commonwealth Games safety.

Ms Bligh will meet Commonwealth Games Federation officials in Delhi today to formally present the Gold Coast's bid.

The other city bidding is Sri Lanka, a country coming out of civil war and looking to create great infrastructure.

"The Sri Lankan bid is being heavily supported by Chinese interests which are redeveloping Hambantota after it was devastated by the Asian tsunami."

Ms Bligh dismissed claims the Games were fading in lustre and not worth taxpayers' money.

"The Games remain one of the biggest sporting events in the world. If you hold an event like that in your city it can really transform the place, look what happened to Brisbane in 1982."

"The Gold Coast really has something to offer. It is a great location, a wonderful destination ... and it offers a safe experience."

The Gold Coast's bid boss Mark Stockwell is in Delhi and cautioned against assuming his bid will be successful because many of the 71 voting nations do not rate security at the same level of concern as Australians.

"Every single vote will matter and not one vote will be taken for granted. We will talk to every single delegate."

"There are a lot of reasons why people would support a bid for Sri Lanka, a country coming out of civil war and looking to create great infrastructure."

"They will also take into account that Australia hosted a Games recently in Melbourne. We want this to be a transforming experience for the Gold Coast and take it to its next stage of development."

"The Sri Lankan bid is being heavily supported by Chinese interests which are redeveloping Hambantota after it was devastated by the Asian tsunami."

Ms Bligh dismissed claims the Games were fading in lustre and not worth taxpayers' money.

"The Games remain one of the biggest sporting events in the world. If you hold an event like that in your city it can really transform the place, look what happened to Brisbane in 1982."

"The Gold Coast really has something to offer. It is a great location, a wonderful destination ... and it offers a safe experience."

The race is on. P65
The Opening Ceremony in Delhi will be a major talking point for Australians this weekend but by the time the ceremony starts, a group of high-powered leaders will have already had their moment in the spotlight to talk up the Gold Coast bid. Lucy Ardern reports.

AS Australians prepare for one of the biggest sporting weekends in history, a contest of a different kind will be going on in Delhi.

The country’s focus may be on Melbourne and Sydney as fans watch the best that AFL and NRL have to offer.

But a small group of Aussies will instead be obsessed with making their mark in a different field.

On the eve of the opening ceremony for the controversial Delhi Commonwealth Games, Queensland’s Premier, Australia’s Sports Minister and members of the bid team for the 2018 event will today make their first presentation to the 71 delegates who will cast their vote for the Gold Coast or the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota.

They have just 20 minutes to make a lasting impression.

And what a 20 minutes it will be.

For politicians used to taking the floor and keeping it, it will be one of the tightest public speaking gigs ever.

Federal Sports Minister Mark Arbib and Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk will have just two or three minutes each.

The pair are just part of the line-up, which will this afternoon make the Gold Coast case to Games delegates who are gathered in Delhi for the 2018 event.

Australian Commonwealth Games president Sam Coffa, plus head of the Gold Coast bid Mark Stockwell, will also take to the stage.

And while health issues stopped Gold Coast Mayor Ron Clarke from being there in person, he has still been squeezed into the presentation agenda via DTV.

Seen as the city’s secret weapon by some, Commonwealth Games Bid Company CEO Mark Peters described Clarke’s speech as “transitional”.

“Ron speaks from the heart,” he said.

“He could not have done any better and he is an icon of the Games movement.”

The overall message of the presentations is simple - the Gold Coast will be ready.

“Given what has happened in Delhi, there is a big challenge for the Commonwealth Games organisation itself from the bad publicity,” said Mr Peters from Delhi.

“So we will be making it clear to the delegates that the Gold Coast will be ready to host the 2018 event and that this ability has been proven.”

“This includes getting the infrastructure in place and soon.”

Games bid boss Mark Stockwell agreed, saying the team was there to convince delegates that a Gold Coast event would be a success.

“We will be making it clear that we know what we have to do and have the track record to do it,” he said.

“This is our first real chance to present our credentials.”

“And all of the firepower of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games bid will come together.”

A range of new sporting venues will be built here before the Games, others will be finished by the time it is staged, and key facilities will be redeveloped on the Gold Coast.

Planned transport improvements include a $1 billion light rail system, plus a possible second stage to Helensvale train station and new east-west bus routes to link into the scheme.

A string of road work projects have
Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin
02-Oct-2010
Page: 56
General News
Market: QLD
Circulation: 39593
Type: Regional
Size: 207.21 sq.cms

also been scheduled to be finished
and improvements to the train
network have been promised.
Mr Stockwell said the presence of
Mr Arthur and Ms Bligh in Delhi
were crucial because it demonstrated the
bid had 100 per cent support from all
levels of government.
"Anns will be there saying that the
Government is prepared to under-
write the bid," he said.
Gold Coast City Council will also
have a presence, headed up by CEO
Dale Dickson.
Mr Peters said part of the picture
painted by the speakers would be that
the Gold Coast could forge a path for
other similar sized regional cities keen
to host the Games.
"As a regional city handling this
event, we can be a model for other
cities that want to do the same," he said.
The benefits to athletes will be an
important part of the pitch, said Mr Peters.
Many delegates will also be intro-
duced to the Gold Coast for the first
time.
"The name Gold Coast is not
restricted to Australia," he said.
"There are other Gold Coasts
around the world and we need to outline
where the city is in relation to
places like Sydney and Melbourne
that are better known."
Despite the importance of the
material, there will be no time to expand
on the short and sweet presentation to the Commonwealth
Games Federation General Assembly
at the weekend with a Q&A session.
But the team heading to Delhi will
use the days following the event, as
the 2018 games unfold, to back up the
Gold Coast case.
Besides the political and Games
heavy hitters, there will be other bid
team representatives pushing the
Gold Coast in Delhi - including
Australian Games identity Glynis
Nunn-Cearns.
"We will be lobbying around the
clock," she said.
Mr Peters said there was a booth
set up in the foyer of the hotel where
the delegates were staying to promote
the Gold Coast bid.
"A lot of what we are doing is about
meeting people and answering their
questions," he said.
The chance to liaise with members of
the Glasgow Commonwealth Games
team, who are hosting the 2018 event, will also be on the agenda
of the bid team. which is keen to pick
up any tips that might give the Gold
Coast an advantage.
Mrs Nunn-Cearns said being part of
the Games push from the other side was exciting.
"I am a Gold Coast and have been living here for 15 years," said the
four times Commonwealth Games
and one time Olympic competitor.
"It is a great city.
And being involved in sport here, I
would really like to see the Gold
Coast get the 2018 event - and the
facilities that go with it - for the
long term.
"There is an opportunity to create a
legacy for the Gold Coast."
Mrs Nunn-Cearns said competing in the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth
Games was a highlight of her sporting
career and she hoped Gold Coast
athletes had the same opportunity.
"I had taught in Brisbane in 1981
and then in 1982, it was really nice," she said.
"It would be great to give others the
opportunity to compete in front of a
home crowd."
The team will be in India until
October 13, before heading home to
open the Gold Coast office, where Mr
Peters will be based at least until
the decision is made between the
cities in November.
Delegates will be in the Gold Coast
for an official visit between June
and October and the office in Marine
Paradise, Southport offers an
opportunity for a quick introduction to
the area.
Located across the road from the
Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, it is also
close enough for delegates to see the
lights of Surfers Paradise and enjoy a
view of the Broadwater.
"We are hoping to have them all
here at once and show off the best
the city has to offer," said Mr Peters.
Before that the team will put most
of its focus into putting together the
Bid Book, which is designed to outline
the high-quality Games that can be
expected if the Gold Coast wins the
event.
"The Bid Book is supposed to cover
everything as if you are presenting it
to someone that knows nothing about
the Gold Coast," said Mr Peters.
"There are a lot of guarantees in
there that you need to pull in as well.
"You have to go through every aspect of how the Games will be run."
The Bid Book will be in the hands of
the Commonwealth Games Feder-
ation by May 31.
After months of work and about
$11 million dollars in taxpayers' money, it could be Gold Coasters
themselves that have the last say on
the bid.
Mrs Nunn-Cearns made the point
that the support of the Coast would
be crucial to getting it over the line.
"One of the important things in
winning the bid is that the community gets behind it," she said.
... we will be making it clear to the delegates that the Gold Coast will be ready to host the 2018 event and that this ability has been proven.

- Commonwealth Games Bid Company CEO Mark Peters

The Bid Book

RELATIONSHIP building and sales pitches are highlighted in the battle to win the Commonwealth Games but more crucial to the Gold Coast's hopes than any meeting is the Bid Book. Inside the hundreds of pages which will be presented to the Commonwealth Games Federation before the May 11 deadline, the detailed case of why the city should be chosen over Hambantota will be laid out in detail. The bid team will paint a picture of how the Gold Coast is the destination capital of Australia in the bid book. The friendly community, wonderful weather and great food will be highlighted as well. The city's sporting credentials will also be pushed, showcasing the top events and teams based here. But most important of all the information included will be details about transport, accommodation and facilities planned for the Gold Coast.
Our Commonwealth Games bid

The venues

EXISTING and new venues will become part of six precincts for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Five of the precincts are located within 15 minutes of the athletes village, which will be a selling point of the bid – designed to make travel easy for athletes and spectators.

The proposed precincts include:

Parklands Precinct
The athletes' village will be established next to Griffith University, which is close to Gold Coast tourism attractions and all core competition venues. Hockey fields will also be located close by at the Gold Coast Hockey Centre.

Southport-Runaway Bay Precinct
The revamped Gold Coast Aquatic Centre will host the swimming and diving. The marathon and triathlon events are also likely to be held in the same area, along the edge of the Broadwater. It is believed squash will be played nearby at the Runaway Bay Sport Centre, where training facilities will be located for a range of sports.

Carrara Precinct
The new 25,000-seat stadium that is under construction will be upgraded to hold 40,910 spectators and be used for the opening and closing ceremonies and track and field competition.

Gymnastics, badminton and the basketball finals will also be staged at the Carrara precinct.

Broadbeach Precinct
The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre will be the main venue in the Broadbeach Precinct, expected to host sports including netball, wrestling or table tennis.

Lawn bowls will be located nearby at the Broadbeach Bowls Club.

Robina Precinct
Skilled Park, which holds 27,400 people currently, is the only constructed venue included in Robina Precinct and will host rugby 7s and boxing. Another facility is likely to be constructed near Skilled Park for the Games.

Chandler Precinct
The Belmont Shooting Complex is located on Brisbane's southside and will host all the shooting competitions.

Optional sports

AS Gold Coasters sit back debating if softball should be in and rowing out of the sporting line-up for the Commonwealth Games, members of the bid team will be more focused on politics than passion for one event over another.

Ten sports are locked in for the Commonwealth Games Federation and then it is up to the candidate city to nominate seven more.

Athletics, basketball, hockey, netball, rugby 7s, swimming, boxing, lawn bowls, squash and weightlifting are all certainties.

But when the other sports organisers and officials are lobbying for a place in the 2018 event, the bid team will also be weighing up the interests of the Commonwealth Games delegates around the world.

The African and Caribbean nations are likely to vote as a block, which makes sports like rowing, which lack a profile in those countries, less likely to be included in the Gold Coast list.

The popularity of sports in the 71 countries and territories involved in the Games is also important, with star athletes and big contests needed to attract media coverage and generate excitement about the event.

The sort of venues needed for events in the Games will also influence the bid team's decision. Sports needing facilities that risk becoming white elephants on the Gold Coast after 2018, are unlikely to be included.
The Opening Ceremony in Delhi will be a major talking point for Australians this weekend but by the time the ceremony starts, a group of high-powered leaders will have already had their moment in the spotlight to talk up the Gold Coast bid, Lucy Ardern reports.

The race is on

Pushing, promoting and lobbying around the clock - Gold Coast Commonwealth Games bid been number one

GAMES BID TIMELINE
31 March 2010: Deadline to notify CGF of official intention to bid.
April 2010: Meeting for all Candidate Cities with the CGF - to discuss bid procedures, and support briefing.
30 April 2010: Distribution of details of electronic bid formats.
30 June 2010: Distribution of the Host City Contract and an original Host City Contract undertaking. This must be signed by representatives of the city and the CGA and returned to the CGF with the Candidate File.
August 2010/April 2011: Meetings with the Commonwealth Games Association delegates at major sporting events or delegate countries.
October 2010: Candidate city presentation at the CGF General Assembly in Delhi.
October 2010: Participation in the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games Observers Program.
February 2011: CGF and Candidate City meeting - individual City clarifications.
11 May 2011: Deadline for lodgement of Candidate City Contract and an original Host City Contract undertaking. This must be signed by representatives of the city and the CGA and returned to the CGF with the Candidate File.
June/July 2011: The CGF Evaluation Commission formally reviews confirmed bids, including onsite visits.
June/October 2011: Commonwealth Games Association delegates visit the to view proposed venues and locations.
October 2011: Deadline for any updates to be issued by Candidate Cities in response to the Evaluation Commission Report.
11 November 2011: Candidate City presentation at the General Assembly in St Kitts and Nevis.
11 November 2011: Delegates vote at the General Assembly and award the right to host the 2018 Games.
Safety selling point for Gold Coast bid

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh walked just one kilometre before trumpeting the key selling point of the Gold Coast for the 2018 Commonwealth Games: safety.

Ms Bligh will meet with Commonwealth Games Federation officials in Delhi today to formally present the Gold Coast bid.

The other city bidding is Sri Lanka port Hambantota. It is widely thought security issues in Delhi have made the Gold Coast a near certainty.

"I think the Commonwealth Games Federation will be looking for... is a good event for athletes and spectators and that means great venues and security and safety - the Gold Coast and Australia offer that in a pretty irresistible package," she said.

The winning bid will be announced on November 11, 2011.
McMahon chosen to fly Aussie flag

DALE MILLER
NEW DELHI

Netball queen Sharelle McMahon will have more than just the itch of revenge driving her at the Commonwealth Games in India after last night being awarded the prestigious role of flag bearer for the Australian team.

The 33-year-old Diamonds captain, who is appearing at her fourth Games in New Delhi, was chosen for the honour from a strong list of candidates including Athens Olympic gold medallist Anna Meares and world champion pole vaulter Steve Hooker.

Her prominent roles in gold medal wins in both 1998 and 2002 was tempered by an agonising defeat to cross-Tasman rivals New Zealand on home soil four years ago in a long-running association with the national team.

The announcement of the flag bearer was kept a secret, even from McMahon, up until the surprise announcement at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, with the decision made by chef de mission Steve Moneghetti.

Her selection was read out in the presence of Queensland Premier Anna Bligh as details of the Gold Coast bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2018 were revealed.

McMahon, who will carry the Australian flag at tomorrow's opening ceremony, spoke of her continuing pride at leading the national netball team.

"It's been a bit of a different lead up for us obviously with a few question marks (over the Games), but truly since we've been here it's been absolutely fantastic," McMahon said.

The experienced goal shooter's heroes in Manchester eight years ago remains her most treasured Commonwealth Games memory, with McMahon helping Australia snatch a thrilling gold medal triumph over the Silver Ferns in double extra time.

The win added to her first gold in her Games debut in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 and she has recently shrugged off injury woes to lead the side's assault in New Delhi.

McMahon joked that she had been lucky to even arrive at the function after being locked out on the balcony of her unit in the athletes village.

"A few teammates and I were hanging some washing out on the balcony in the athletes village and one of the girls decided to shut it (the door) to keep out the mozzies," McMahon said.

"It was only when we shut it that we realised we can't get back in when it shuts because it locks behind you.

"Luckily after about 10 minutes a couple of Aussies walked past and rescued us."

Three-time hockey player of the year Jamie Dwyer and dual Olympic gold medal shooter Michael Diamond were also understood to have been among those considered in the running for the unique honour.

McMahon follows in the footsteps of athletics queen Jane Saville - a three-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist - who was chosen for the role in Melbourne in 2006.
Rapt: Australian netball captain Sharelle McMahon shows her delight after being named the Games flag bearer in New Delhi last night.

Picture: Michael Wilson
Hall turns 100

CHILLINGHAM Hall 100th year celebrations will be held tomorrow. The day of festivities will include morning tea, poetry by famous bush poet Dennis Scanlon, a flag raising ceremony, history talks and the unveiling of a 100-year ceremonial stainless steel wall plaque and much more. Master of Ceremonies will be Murwillumbah resident Bernie Quinn. Entry will be free.

Festival fun

UNITY festival will kick-off from noon today at the northern end of the Murwillumbah Showgrounds and will run until 10 tonight. The 10-hour festival will include music, dance and food from around the world. There will also be a kids corner. Entry will be $10 for adults, $5 for concessions and children under 16 free.

Bid for Games

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has left for India where she will argue the Gold Coast’s case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left on Thursday for New Delhi and appeared at the Commonwealth Games Federation’s general assembly yesterday ahead of the Games opening today. The Gold Coast is competing against the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota. The Queensland Government plans to spend $11 million on its bid and invest more than $1 billion in infrastructure over the next eight years.

Art competition

THE 11th annual Coraki Art competition is open for entries. Two additional categories of printmaking and 3D sculpture have been added, as well as an increase in prize money for all categories. Entry forms are now available for community art prize at www.corakairtprize.org.au.

Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) licenced copy.

Ref: 79511332
GAMES: Bligh to present Aussie bid for Games

Queensland Premier ANNA BLIGH is in New Delhi to present the bid to take the 2018 Games to the Gold Coast.

Ms BLIGH leads a team of four making its first presentation to delegates from all 71 participating countries and territories of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

She’s rejected speculation that people have lost interest in the Commonwealth Games, and that the long list of problems in the lead up to the Delhi Games has only contributed to such a view.

Ms BLIGH’s told reporters that if the Games are secured for the Gold Coast, she has no doubt Australians will get behind it.

The 71 nations and territories will vote for the winner in November 2011.

AAP RTV vpmicd
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. — AP
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. — AP
Anna's pearls of wisdom

PREMIER Anna Bligh this week took time out from her visit to Delhi for a chat with one of the Gold Coast's biggest investors.

Ms Bligh, on a mission to secure the Commonwealth Games for the Coast in 2018, met Pearls Global chairman and founder Naresh Singh Phangoo.

Pearls Global took its first plunge into the Australian market last year when it paid $625 million for Sheraton Mirage and again last week announced a $300 million joint venture with David Devine's Metro Property Development.

"Queensland has proved an excellent destination for our first major investments outside of India," says Mr Phangoo. "We greatly appreciate Ms Bligh's keen interest in our activities."

Phangoo is about a month away from announcing its plans for the Sheraton Mirage. No doubt the Premier has been briefed on the decision.
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2.

She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - AAP
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - MP

Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) licenced copy.
QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Ms Bligh left yesterday for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly tomorrow — the day before the games begin.

The Gold Coast is competing against the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota, whose bid will be put up by the country's president, Mahinda Rajapakse.

Meanwhile, nearly 100,000 police officers have been deployed in the streets of New Delhi as Indian officials step up their fight to make sure the remainder of the Commonwealth Games is incident free.

On top of the unprecedented amount of police, officials have also put fighter jets on standby and even brought in langur monkeys to help protect the largest international sporting event ever held in the city.

— AAP/AP

CHECKED: Australian cyclist Shane Perkins passes through security at the Athletes Village in Delhi.

PHOTO: AAP
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Queensland Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to stage the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 4, the day before the games begin. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. The Gold Coast is competing against the Sri Lankan city of Colombo.
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - mp
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. — mp
MTWTFS-

Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - AP
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to hold the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - MP
QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Ms Bligh left yesterday for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2.

The Gold Coast is competing against the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota.
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - AAP
Premier's going for Gold

BRISBANE: Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Ms Bligh left yesterday morning for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly on October 2. She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials. - AAP
Bligh to put Games case

QUEENSLAND Premier Anna Bligh has left for India, where she will argue the Gold Coast's case to host the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Ms Bligh left yesterday for New Delhi to appear at the Commonwealth Games Federation's general assembly tomorrow – the day before the Games begin.

She will be joined by federal Sport Minister Mark Arbib to argue the tourist town's credentials.

The Gold Coast is competing against the Sri Lankan city of Hambantota.

The Queensland Government plans to spend $1.1 billion on its bid and invest more than $1 billion in infrastructure over the next eight years, including an upgraded aquatic centre, new velodrome and athletes' village.

It hopes Australia's reputation as a sporting host and the tourism infrastructure already in place, will push it over the line.

Gold Coast Mayor and former Olympian Ron Clarke will join the delegation by video link.

AAP, Brisbane

BREAKING NATIONAL NEWS

Preparations: Workers sweep the area around Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, the main venue for the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi

Copyright Agency Ltd (CAL) licenced copy.