

Report to Parliament

Official trade mission to the United States of America

23 February – 3 March 2026

The Honourable Tim Mander MP

Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games



Queensland
Government

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Program

Monday, 23 February 2026 Brisbane – Los Angeles	
4:40pm	Arrive at the Brisbane International Airport, Brisbane
7:40pm	Depart Brisbane for Los Angeles (LA), United States of America
2:30pm	Arrive at LA International Airport
3:15pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
4:00pm	Check-in at Fairmont Century Plaza
	Refresh at Fairmont Century Plaza
6:00pm	Travel to Cobi’s Restaurant
6:30pm – 9:00pm	Friends of Queensland Dinner
9:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
Overnight	Fairmont Century Plaza
Tuesday, 24 February 2026 Los Angeles	
	Brisbane liaison time
9:00am	Travel to Century Plaza Towers
9:15am – 9:45am	Briefing with the Australian Consul-General, LA
9:45am	Travel to One Cal Plaza
10:30am – 11:00am	Meeting with AECOM
11:00am	Travel to Howard Hughes Center
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Meeting with Tourism Australia and Qantas
1:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
	Brisbane liaison time
5:30pm	Travel to Huntley Hotel
6:00pm – 9:00pm	Private Dinner with Olympians, Paralympians and Special Guests
9:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
Overnight	Fairmont Century Plaza
Wednesday, 25 February 2026 Los Angeles	
	Brisbane liaison time

8:15am	Travel to Fox Studios
8:30am – 9:00am	Meeting with the National Football League (NFL)
9:00am – 1:15pm	G'Day Business Roundtable
1:15pm	Travel by the 2028 International Broadcast Centre site on the way to Intuit Dome
2:00pm – 3:15pm	Tour of Intuit Dome and Meeting with LA Clippers Leadership
3:15pm	Travel to SoFi Stadium
3:45pm – 7:00pm	Australia the Sporting Nation Event
7:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
Overnight	Fairmont Century Plaza
Thursday, 26 February 2026 Los Angeles	
	Brisbane liaison time
8:20am	Travel to Australia House
9:15am – 10:15am	Australia House Showcase
10:15am	Travel to LA 2028 Organizing Committee Office
11:00am – 12:00pm	Meeting with LA 2028 Organizing Committee
12:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
	Brisbane liaison time
1:30pm	Travel to LA City Hall
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Meeting with LA Mayor's Office of Major Events
3:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
	Brisbane liaison time
5:00pm	Travel to The Lot at Formosa
6:00pm – 10:00pm	G'Day USA Arts Gala
10:00pm	Travel to Fairmont Century Plaza
Overnight	Fairmont Century Plaza
Friday, 27 February 2026 Los Angeles – Las Vegas	
	Check-out of Fairmont Century Plaza
5:30am	Travel to LA International Airport

8:15am	Depart LA for Las Vegas, United States of America
9:35am	Arrive in Las Vegas
10:00am	Travel to The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
	Check-in at The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
11:30am	Travel to the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) Performance Institute
12:00pm – 2:00pm	Meeting with UFC Leadership and tour of the UFC Performance Institute
2:00pm	Travel to Resorts World Las Vegas
2:30pm – 4:00pm	Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
4:00pm – 7:00pm	Indo-Pacific Forum
7:00pm	Travel to The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
Overnight	The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
Saturday, 28 February 2026 Las Vegas	
	Brisbane liaison time
10:00am	Travel to the Sphere
10:15am – 12:15pm	Tour of and experience at Sphere
12:15pm	Travel to The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
	Brisbane liaison time
2:00pm	Travel to Allegiant Stadium
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Tour of Allegiant Stadium
4:00pm – 10:30pm	National Rugby League 2026 Season Las Vegas Launch
10:30pm	Travel to The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
Overnight	The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
Sunday, 1 March 2026 Las Vegas – Los Angeles	
	Brisbane liaison time
	Check-out The Palazzo at the Venetian Resort
2:00pm	Travel to Harry Reid International Airport
4:45pm	Depart Las Vegas for LA
6:05pm – 8:50pm	Stopover at LA International Airport

8:50pm	Depart LA for Brisbane
Overnight	Inflight
Monday, 2 March 2026 Los Angeles – Brisbane	
	Travel from LA to Brisbane
Tuesday, 3 March Brisbane	
5:00am	Arrive at Brisbane International Airport, Brisbane

The Minister's Official Delegation

The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games

Meeting Summaries

Monday, 23 February 2026

Event	Friends of Queensland Dinner
Time	6:30pm – 9:00pm
Venue	Cobi's LA, 2104 Main Street, Santa Monica, Los Angeles, CA 90405
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Ollie Philpot	Group Executive, Commercial and Partnerships, Tourism and Events Queensland
Ms Laura Jones	Director, Americas, Tourism and Events Queensland
Ms Lisa Strangis	Public Relations, Tourism and Events Queensland
Mr Chris Allison	Vice President, The Americas and New Zealand, Tourism Australia
Mr Brent Hill	Chief Marketing Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Ash Howell	Executive Vice President for the Americas, Qantas
Mr David Thomas	Vice President of Sales for the Americas, Qantas
Ms Erin Gray	Senior Vice President, Business Engagement and Development, American Australian Association
Ms Susie O'Neill AM OLY	Board Member of the Australian Olympic Committee
Mr David Lutteral	Radio Host
Mr Adrian Forsyth	President of NBI Trading and Founder of Naturalena Foundation
Ms Chelsey Martin	Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Bondi Partners
Ms Kylie Robertson	Owner and President, RS Collective
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hannah Jenkins	Sports Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms Tiffany Rowe	Marketing Director, Americas, Tourism Australia
Ms Georgia Harman	Public Relations Director, Americas, Tourism Australia
Ms Tanya Bowes	Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Tourism Australia
The Honourable Will Hodgeman	Chair, Trade and Investment Queensland
Mayor Tom Tate	City of Gold Coast Council
Mr Tim Baker	Chief Executive Officer, City of Gold Coast
Mr David Lyons	Chair, Queensland Academy of Sport
Mr Troy Ayres	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Academy of Sport
Event Summary	
Relationship-building dinner hosted by Tourism and Events Queensland to connect Queensland delegates with partners based in the United States of America (USA) ahead of the 2026 G'Day USA event, reinforcing Queensland's priorities across the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Games), tourism and trade.	

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Event	Briefing with the Australian Consul-General, LA
Time	9:15am – 9:45am
Venue	Century Plaza Towers, 2029 Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Tanya Bennett	Australian Consul-General, LA
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
The Consul-General highlighted the opportunity that the Games presents to increase Queensland's global profile and strategically position Queensland as the sport and entertainment capital of Australia. The Minister outlined the upcoming international events that Queensland is set to host and advised that the Queensland Government is engaging with the National Football League (NFL) and Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).	

Event	Meeting with AECOM
Time	10:30am – 11:00am
Venue	One Cal Plaza, 300 South Grand, Los Angeles, CA 90071
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Bill Hanway	AECOM Executive Vice President
	AECOM LA Team
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
<p>This meeting presented an opportunity to meet with Mr Bill Hanway, Executive Vice President, AECOM (the Official Venue Infrastructure Partner for the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games (LA 2028)). AECOM, as part of the Unite32 joint venture with Laing O'Rourke, was also recently announced as the Delivery Partner of the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority (GIICA) for the Games. Mr Hanway advised that AECOM has worked on every edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games since 2012 and updated the Minister on venue infrastructure for LA 2028, including procurement processes.</p>	

Event	Meeting with Tourism Australia and Qantas
Time	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Venue	Howard Hughes Center, 6100 Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Robin Mack	Managing Director, Tourism Australia
Mr Chris Allison	Vice President, The Americas and New Zealand, Tourism Australia
Mr Ash Howell	Executive Vice President for the Americas, Qantas
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland

Event Summary

This briefing from Tourism Australia and Qantas focused on tourism trends between Australia and the USA, as well as key learnings from the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Discussion included tourism marketing, aviation growth, and alignment between national and Queensland strategies to leverage major events and the Games.

Event	Private Dinner with Olympians, Paralympians and Special Guests
Time	6:00pm – 9:00pm
Venue	Huntley Hotel, 1111 2nd Street, Standa Monica Beach, Los Angeles, CA 90401
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Simon Anderson	Senior Vice President, Cloud CDW
Ms Amanda Annamalay Jochum	Deputy Australian Consul-General, LA
The Honourable Mark Arbib	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Simon Arkell	Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ryght AI
Mr Troy Ayres	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Academy of Sport
Ms Tanya Bennett	Australian Consul-General, LA
Ms Tanya Bowes	Executive General Manager, Corporate Affairs, Tourism Australia
Mr Sean Chawla	Founder Trevara
Mr Ian Chesterman AM	President, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Bill Chillingworth	
Mr John Coates AC	Board Director, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Gerina Di Marco	Owner, Aim High Publishing
Mr Alex Dickinson	Co-Founder and Chairman, Ryght AI
Ms Freda Driscoll	Chief of Staff, Australian Olympic Committee

Ms Kate Dykes	Head of Philanthropy and Business Development, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Damian Eales	Chief Executive Officer, Realtor
Senator the Honourable Don Farrell	Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
Ms Terry Fiet	Los Angeles Managing Partner, Deloitte
Mr Damon Fleming	Dean and Professor of Accounting, Orfalea College of Business, California Polytechnic State University
Ms Jane Flemming OAM OLY	President, Athletics Australia
Mr Simon Gallagher	SPG Global
Ms Heather Garriock	Executive Director of Football and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Football Australia
Mr Roger Goodell	Commissioner, NFL
Mr Brett Gosper	Head of Europe and Asia-Pacific, NFL
Mr Tom Gregg	Conflict Mediator and Humanitarian Access Negotiator, United Nations
Mr John Greig	Chair, Deloitte
Mr Gary Hall	
Ms Alice Hampton	Founder, ACP Management
Professor Bronwyn Harch	Higher Education and Research Leader, Griffith University
Ms Rebecca Hebbard	Events Manager, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Nick Hentschel	Chief Operating Officer, American Tours International
Ms Noel Hentschel	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, American Tours International
Mr Chad Hetherington	Founder, The Stable
Mr Brent Hill	Chief Marketing Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
The Honourable Joe Hockey	Chair, Bondi Partners
Ms Cindy Hook	Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr George Houssos	Head of Corporate Affairs, Football Australia
Mr Anter Isaac	Chair, Football Australia
Mr William Jago	Chief of Commercial, Fan Engagement and Media, Australian Olympic Committee
Ms Hannah Jenkins	Sports Officer, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Michael Klim OAM OLY	Founder, The Klim Foundation
Mr Daniel Kowalski OLY	Chief of Olympian Support, Australian Olympic Committee
Ms Amanda Laing	Managing Director, Streaming and Broadcast, Nine Entertainment
Mr Steve Lewis	
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Jeannie Lopes	UK Ambassador for Advance Global Australians, Bondi Partners
Mr David Lutteral	Radio Host
Mr David Lyons	Chair, Queensland Academy of Sport
Mr Ryan Martinez	Executive Alliance Bernstein
Ms Naomi McCarthy OAM OLY	Director, Griffith Sports College
Mr Curtis McGrath OAM PLY	Board Director, Paralympics Australia
Ms Emma McKeon AM OLY	
Mr Chris McMurry	Bitcoin
Mr Nick Molnar	Co-Founder, Afterpay
Mr Simon Molnar	Founder, Flagship
Mr Trent Oeltjen OLY	Legacy Sports
Ms Susie O'Neill AM OLY	Board Member of the Australian Olympic Committee
Ms Jess Reid	Chief of Staff to the President of the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr David Riccio	Chief Sportswriter, Daily Telegraph
Ms Heather Ridout AO	Australian Consul-General, New York
Mrs Elizabeth Scott OAM OLY	Board Member, Australian Olympic Committee
Miss Izzy Scott	
Mr Saad Shahzad	Founder, Zoom Logi
Mr Nicholas Stone	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Bluestone Lane
Mr Gabriel Szerda	Managing Director, AB CarVal Investors

Mr Ian Thorpe AM OLY	
Event Summary	
<p>Hosted by the Australian Olympic Committee and the AUS Olympic Business Club, this dinner celebrated the pathway from LA 2028 to the Games through the lived experiences of Olympians and Paralympians. Athletes reflected on the broader social impact of sport. The dinner also functioned as a sport diplomacy platform, connecting athletes with business leaders and government representatives.</p>	

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

Event	Meeting with the National Football League (NFL)
Time	8:30am – 9:00am
Venue	Fox Studios, 10200 West Galaxy Way, Los Angeles, CA 90067
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Roger Goodell	Commissioner, NFL
Mr Brett Gosper	Head of Europe and Asia-Pacific, NFL
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Jessica Reid	Chief of Staff, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Event Summary	
<p>A productive meeting with the NFL providing a platform to discuss opportunities for regional Queensland. The NFL sees Australia as a sporting nation, and they discussed a vision for their game connected to their outlook on LA 2028 and 2032. The Minister invited the NFL to visit Brisbane to connect with stakeholders, as the NFL considers an expansion of flag football into Australia. The Minister also provided an update on the Victoria Park Stadium.</p>	

Event	G'Day Business Roundtable
Time	9:00am – 1:15pm
Venue	Fox Studios, 10200 West Galaxy Way, Los Angeles, CA 90067
Attendees	

The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Senator the Honourable Don Farrell	Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
Ms Heather Ridout AO	Australian Consul-General, New York
Ms Tanya Bennett	Australian Consul-General, LA
Cr Tom Tate	Mayor, City of Gold Coast
Mr Steven Marshall	President American Australian Association
Mr Ian Chesterman AM	President, Australian Olympic Committee
The Honourable Mark Arbib	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Curtis McGrath OAM PLY	Board Director, Paralympics Australia
Mr Dilpreet Sidhu	Deputy Mayor, International Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Mr Roger Goodell	Commissioner, NFL
Mr Brett Gosper	Head of Europe and Asia-Pacific, NFL
Mr John Simeoni	Executive Manager, Offshore Sales and Alliances, Qantas
Mr David Berman	Co-Head of MacCap Americas, Macquarie
Mr Michael Walbrecht	Vice President, Public Affairs, Warner Bros.
Ms Debra Richards	Director, APAC Global Affairs, Netflix
Ms Chelsey Martin	Chief Executive Officer, Bondi Partners
Mr Nicholas Stone	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Bluestone Lane and Old Mates
Ms Kate Marks	Chief Executive Officer, Ausfilm
Ms Isabel Guzman	Founder, Avenida Advisors

Ms Kathryn Schloessman	President and Chief Executive Officer, LA Sports and Entertainment Commission
Ms Penny Fowler	Chairman, HWT - News Corp.
Ms Heather Garriock	Executive Director of Football and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Football Australia
Ms Maria Salinas	President and Chief Executive Officer, LA Area Chamber of Commerce
Mr Charlie Custeau	Managing Director, Blackstone
Mr Fernando Ramirez	Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, LA84 Foundation
Ms Amanda Laing	Managing Director, Streaming and Broadcast, Nine
Ms Kate Kavanagh	Vice President, Government Relations, Public Policy and Live Entertainment, ANZ, The Walt Disney Company
Ms Claire Johnston	Chief Executive Officer, Lendlease
Mr Timothy Stollznaw	Chief Executive Officer, MyVenue
Mr Peter Tonagh	Chairman, Nine
Ms Deirdre Brennan	Chief Executive Officer, Screen Australia
Mr Jamie Montgomery	Co-Founder and Managing Partner, March Capital
Ms Tracey Corbin-Matchett OAM	Chief Executive Officer, Bus Stop Films
Ms Melanie Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer, North America, Done+Dusted
Ms Jennifer Nason	Founder, NasonCo
Ms Zjantelle Markel	Founder and Principal Attorney, Cammisa Markel
Mr Damian Eales	Chief Executive Officer, Realtor.com
Mr Tim Baker	Chief Executive Officer, City of Gold Coast
Mr Brent Hill	Chief Marketing Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Peter Ritchie	Chief Executive Officer, Australians in Film
Mr Ash Howell	Executive Vice President for the Americas, Qantas
Ms Amanda Duthie	Director, ANZ Content, Netflix
Ms Lucy Parrish	Senior Manager, ANZ Policy, Netflix
Mr Andrew Ure	Vice President, APAC Global Affairs, Netflix
Ms Amanda Wight	Director, International Marketing and Celebrity Management, United States Tennis Association
Ms Esti Zilber	Chief Executive Officer, Sounds Australia

Mr Michael Phillips	Chief Financial Officer, Lendlease
Mr Robin Mack	Managing Director, Tourism Australia
Mr Chris Allison	Vice President, The Americas and New Zealand, Tourism Australia
Event Summary	
<p>The G’Day Business Roundtable explored trade, investment, and economic opportunities arising from LA 2028 and the Games. Participants included leaders from sport, media, entertainment, finance, and government. Key themes included private-sector investment models, sport as an economic catalyst, media and broadcast innovation, and the growing international footprint of USA sports leagues. Queensland’s potential role as a global hub for sport and events was positioned within broader USA–Australia engagement.</p>	

Event	Tour of Intuit Dome and Meeting with LA Clippers Leadership
Time	2:00pm – 3:15pm
Venue	Intuit Dome, 10216 South Prairie Avenue, Inglewood, CA 90303
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Rohan Bhasin	Vice President, Operations, Intuit Dome
Mr Craig Bojda	Vice President, Operations, LA Clippers
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
<p>This site visit provided first-hand exposure to the future LA 2028 International Broadcast Centre and the Intuit Dome. The tour highlighted how broadcast operations, venue design, technology, and fan experience are integrated at scale. Discussion focused on accessibility, sustainability, and the transition of LA 2028 infrastructure into long-term commercial and community use. The visit provided practical insights relevant to Games venue planning.</p>	

Event	Australia the Sporting Nation Event
Time	3:45pm – 7:00pm
Venue	SoFi Stadium, 1001 South Stadium Drive, Inglewood, CA 90301
Attendees	

The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Senator the Honourable Don Farrell	Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
Mr James Bracey	Sports Presenter
Mr Robin Mack	Managing Director, Tourism Australia
Ms Heather Garrick	Executive Director of Football and Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Football Australia
Mr Roger Goodell	Commissioner, NFL
Mr Ian Chesterman AM	President, Australian Olympic Committee
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
	Australian and American Sporting Officials
	Australian and American Sporting Dignitaries
Event Summary	
<p>This event positioned sport as a core pillar of Australia’s international brand. The program combined executive networking with discussion on sports tourism, major event attraction, and global engagement. The Minister had the opportunity to leverage the Games to drive trade and tourism. Cultural diplomacy was reinforced, particularly in the lead-up to LA 2028 when attention turns to future host nations and during the 2026 FIFA World Cup (to be hosted in LA over 9-19 June 2026).</p>	

Thursday, 26 February 2026

Event	Australia House Showcase
Time	9:15am – 11:00 am
Venue	Windward Avenue, Venice Beach, CA 90291
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Mr Sean Andrew Martin	Sales and Marketing Director, 57 Winward
Mr Joe Lardieri	Venue Manager, 57 Winward
Mr Steven Marshall	President American Australian Association
Ms Freda Driscoll	Chief of Staff, Australian Olympic Committee
Ms Kate Dykes	Head of Philanthropy and Business Development, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Ian Thorpe AM OLY	
Ms Emma McKeon AM OLY	
Mr Michael Klim OAM OLY	Founder, The Klim Foundation
Mr Gary Hall Jnr.	
Mr Daniel Kowalski OLY	Chief of Olympian Support, Australian Olympic Committee
Ms Rebecca Hebbard	Events Manager, Australian Olympic Committee
Dr Paul Grimes	Chief Executive Officer, Austrade
Senator the Honourable Don Farrell	Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
The Honourable Mark Arbib	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Will Jago	Chief of Commercial, Marketing and Digital, Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Ian Chesterman AM	President, Australian Olympic Committee
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Jessica Reid	Chief of Staff, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Cindy Hook	Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Brent Hill	Chief Marketing Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr John Coates AC	Board Director, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee

Ms Rebecca Frizelle OAM	Board Director, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Cr Tom Tate	Mayor, City of Gold Coast
Mr Matt Stanton	Chief Executive Officer, Nine
Ms Jacqui Lumb	Chief of Staff, Olympics and Paralympics, Nine
Mr Peter Tonagh	Chair, Nine
Ms Amanda Laing	Managing Director, Nine
Ms Tanya Bennett	Australian Consul-General, LA
Ms Susie O'Neill AM OLY	Board Member of the Australian Olympic Committee
Mr Curtis McGrath OAM PLY	Board Director, Paralympics Australia
Ms Kate McLoughlin	Chef de Mission, Paralympics Australia
Ms Laura Jones	Director, Americas, Tourism and Events Queensland
Mr Ollie Philpot	Group Executive, Commercial and Partnerships, Tourism and Events Queensland
Mr Craig Davidson	Chief Executive Officer, Tourism and Events Queensland
Mr Chris Allison	Vice President, The Americas and New Zealand, Tourism Australia
Mr Robin Mack	Managing Director, Tourism Australia
Ms Susan Coghill	Chief Marketing Officer, Tourism Australia
Mr Justin McGowan	Chief Executive Officer, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland

Event Summary

The Australia House Showcase provided an early preview of Australia's national pavilion planned for LA 2028. The event demonstrated how Australia House will function as a platform for cultural promotion, commercial engagement, diplomacy, and media activation. Queensland's role as host of the Games was central, positioning the state as the future focus of Olympic and Paralympic engagement and building momentum well ahead of 2032.

Event	Meeting with LA 2028 Organizing Committee
Time	11:00am – 12:00pm
Venue	1150 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
General Reynold Hoover (Ret.)	Chief Executive Officer, LA 2028 Organizing Committee
Mr Erik Aldridge	Vice President, Impact, LA 2028 Organizing Committee
Mr John Harper	Chief Operating Officer, LA 2028 Organizing Committee
Ms Priscilla Cheng	Chief External Affairs Officer, LA 2028 Organizing Committee
Ms Cindy Hook	Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
<p>This meeting explored the LA 2028 Organizing Committee's governance structure, commercial funding model, sustainability commitments, and legacy programs. As a privately funded, non-profit organising committee, the attendees provided insights into sponsorship, risk management, and community investment. The Committee provided valuable insights into developing a strategic legacy plan. Discussions also occurred on the development of their Games Coordination Plan and balancing community excitement and demand for information with the realities of maintaining stakeholder confidence.</p>	

Event	Meeting with LA Mayor's Office of Major Events
Time	2:30pm – 3:00pm
Venue	LA City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Paul Krekorian	Executive Director, Office of Major Events, Office of Mayor Karen Bass
Event Summary	
<p>This meeting provided an opportunity to hear from Mr Krekorian about LA's approach to coordinating LA 2028. With LA 2028 following closely after the FIFA 2026 World Cup and Super Bowl LXI (in 2027), and Mayor Bass emphasising inclusivity, the traveling party discussed LA's priorities across transport and volunteer programs.</p>	

Event	G'Day USA Arts Gala
Time	6:00pm – 10:00pm
Venue	The Lot at Formosa, 1062 North Poinsettia Place, West Hollywood, CA 90046
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Gabe Sulkes	Acting Deputy Commissioner, North America, Trade and Investment Queensland
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Mr Steven Marshall	President American Australian Association
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Mr Lachlan Murdoch	Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chair, Fox Corporation
The Honourable Joe Hockey	Chair, Bondi Partners
Senator the Honourable Don Farrell	Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism and Special Minister of State
	Current and former Australian and Queensland Elected Representatives
	Australian and American Media Dignitaries and Officials
	Australian and American Sporting Dignitaries and Officials
Event Summary	
<p>The G'Day USA Gala served as the flagship cultural diplomacy event of the Minister's program, celebrating Australian achievement across sport, culture, and business. The Gala strengthened senior-level relationships with influential stakeholders based in the USA. Sport featured prominently as part of Australia's global identity, reinforcing the strategic relevance of the Games.</p>	

Friday, 27 February 2026

Event	Meeting with UFC Leadership and tour of the UFC Performance Institute
Time	12:00pm – 2:00pm
Venue	UFC Performance Institute, 6650 South Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89118

Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Peter Dropick	Vice President, Event Development and Operations, UFC
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
<p>The meeting with the UFC focused on high-performance sport, athlete development, and the organisation’s global commercial model. The tour of the UFC Performance Institute showcased integrated approaches to training, health, and data-driven performance. Discussion explored potential opportunities for Queensland to partner on or host similar high-performance facilities. The Minister highlighted Queensland’s interest in such opportunities, as UFC has outgrown many Australian arenas in terms of both crowd capacity and operational needs. Mr Dropick emphasised the UFC willingness to share expertise on production and operational requirements and stressed the importance of involving the right people in the planning and development process.</p>	

Event	Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
Time	2:30pm – 2:45pm
Venue	Resorts World Las Vegas, 3000 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89109
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
The Honourable John Rosso MP	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands and Immigration, Papua New Guinea
The Honourable Lucas Dawa Dekena	Minister for Education, Papua New Guinea
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Jessica Reid	Chief of Staff, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Event Summary	

Discussions between the Minister and the Honourable John Rosso MP, Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) highlighted PNG's use of sport, particularly rugby league, to address school absenteeism, as well as the country's progress in gender equality, with increasing representation of women in roles such as police, military, and aviation. The Minister also provided updates on Games procurement opportunities for PNG and the potential involvement of PNG police for the Games. Additional opportunities were noted around the Paralympics, with potential connections to the Queensland Academy of Sport.

Event	Indo-Pacific Forum
Time	4:00pm – 7:00pm
Venue	Resorts World Las Vegas, 3000 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas, NV 89109
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
The Honourable Joe Hockey	Chair, Bondi Partners
Ms Heather Ridout AO	Australian Consul-General, New York
The Honourable John Rosso MP	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands and Immigration, Papua New Guinea
The Honourable Lucas Dawa Dekena	Minister for Education, Papua New Guinea
Mr Peter V'landys	Chairman, Australian Rugby League Commission
	Current and former Australian and American Elected Representatives
	Australian and American Sporting and Media Dignitaries
Event Summary	
The Indo-Pacific Forum examined the role of sport in diplomacy, development, and regional engagement, with a particular focus on rugby league and Pacific partnerships. The discussion aligned with Australia's Sport Diplomacy Strategy and highlighted Queensland's role in Indo-Pacific sport engagement ahead of the Games.	

Saturday, 28 February 2026

Event	Tour of and experience at Sphere
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Time	10:15am – 12:15pm
Venue	Sphere, 255 Sands Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89169
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Armen Dembekjian	Senior Vice President and General Manager, Sphere Entertainment Company
Dr Andrew Liveris AO	President, Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Event Summary	
The tour of Sphere showcased next-generation immersive entertainment technology and large-scale digital storytelling. Insights from the experience were relevant to ceremonies, fan experiences, and non-sport programming associated with the Games.	

Event	Toured Allegiant Stadium and met with executives
Time	3:00pm – 4:00pm
Venue	Allegiant Stadium, 3333 Al Davis Way, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Angelo Cardone	Senior Vice President, Finance
Event Summary	
The insights provided from see Allegiant Stadium activated were particularly relevant for the Minister, as the future Victoria Park Stadium is planned to have similar seating size.	

Meeting	National Rugby League 2026 Season Las Vegas Launch
Time	4:00pm – 10:30pm

Venue	Allegiant Stadium, 3333 Al Davis Way, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Attendees	
The Honourable Tim Mander MP	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Kristin McGill	Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Mr Andrew Hopper	Director-General, Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms Hanna Peltonen	Director, Trade – North America International Operations, Trade and Investment Queensland
Mr Peter V'landys	Chairman, Australian Rugby League Commission
Mr Andrew Abdo	Chief Executive Officer, National Rugby League
Mr Andy Gorchov	General Manager, Allegiant Stadium
	Australian and American Sporting Dignitaries and Officials
Event Summary	
Attendance at the National Rugby League (NRL) 2026 Season Las Vegas Launch highlighted how Australian sport can be successfully exported to global markets. The Launch reinforced lessons for Queensland in hosting and promoting major sporting events with an international focus.	

Photo Summary

Tuesday, 24 February 2026



Briefing with the Australian Consul-General, LA



Meeting with AECOM

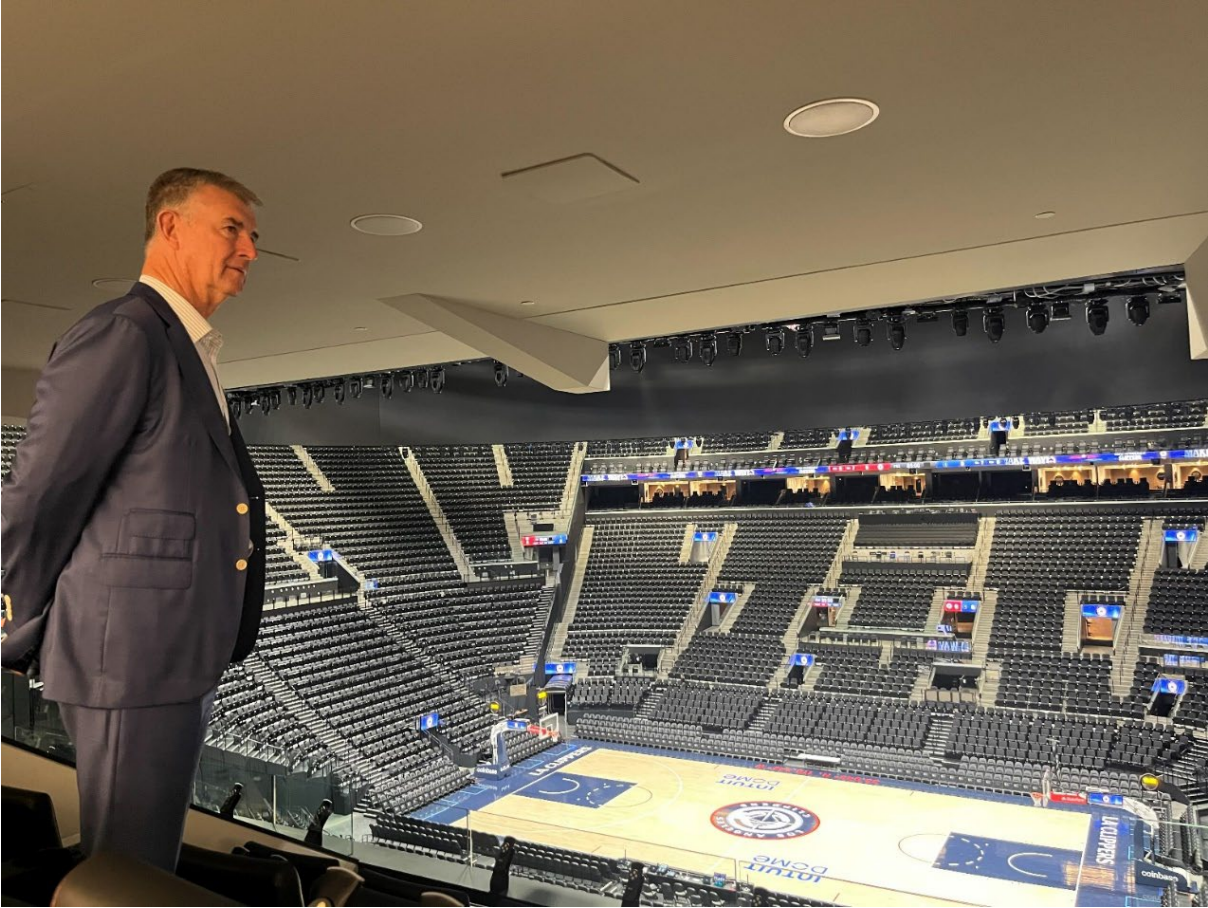


Meeting with Tourism Australia and Qantas

Wednesday, 25 February 2026



G'Day Business Roundtable

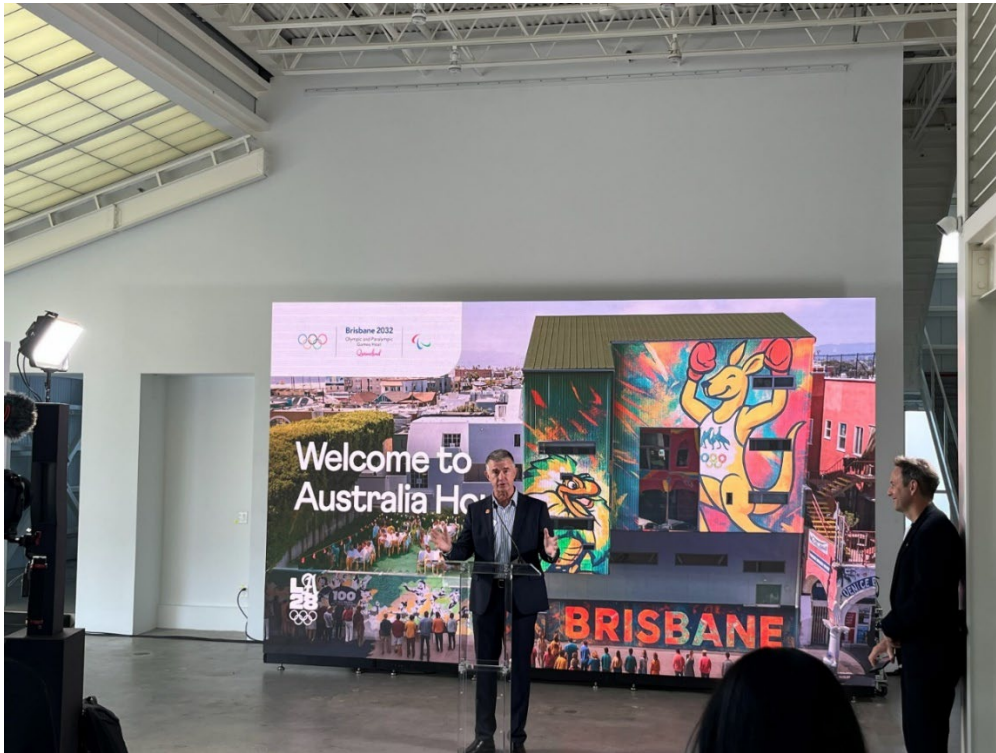


Tour of Intuit Dome and Meeting with LA Clippers Leadership



Australia the Sporting Nation

Thursday, 26 February 2026



Australia House Showcase



Meeting with LA 2028 Organizing Committee



Meeting with LA Mayor's Office of Major Events

Friday, 27 February 2026



Meeting with UFC Leadership and tour of the UFC Performance Institute



Meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Saturday, 28 February 2026



Tour of and experience at Sphere



Tour of Allegiant Stadium



National Rugby League 2026 Season Las Vegas Launch