



Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport

Ref: 3290-20

17 JUN 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie,

I refer to e-petition number 3290-20 titled 'Matthew Bowen Statue' and thank the petitioners for their interest and advocacy for the proposal.

Matthew Bowen has been an outstanding player for the North Queensland Cowboys and as a State of Origin player, representing the Queensland Maroons on ten occasions.

The decision to immortalise Queensland's sporting greats is not taken lightly and any such decision requires enthusiastic public support as well as the input and endorsement of key stakeholders and funding partners. With North Queensland having such a rich history of producing rugby league players, decisions of this nature need to occur within the context of the other greats of the game who may also be considered worthy of this form of recognition.

Statues at other Queensland venues such as those at Suncorp Stadium, have been funded from a variety of sources, including the sporting code itself (for example the John Eales statue included a significant contribution from Queensland Rugby Union), business and private donations, as well as some Government support.

As you would be aware, the Queensland Government supported the installation of the Jonathan Thurston statue at the venue earlier this year as part of the overall stadium project budget and in response to overwhelming public support.

Given Mr Bowen's association with North Queensland and the Cowboys, it may be that some recognition at Queensland Country Bank Stadium is ultimately an appropriate form of acknowledgement. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic currently impacting Queenslanders in many ways, consideration of the proposal needs to occur within the context of the immediate funding and service delivery priorities of government.

I do however recognise the interest of petitioners in this matter and will revisit the proposal with the Queensland Rugby League in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mick de Brenni'.

Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport