

Brisbane Olympics bid: Galaxy poll shows big support

DARYL PASSMORE, The Courier-Mail

August 15, 2016 8:53am

OLYMPIC fever has gripped Queenslanders, with nearly two-thirds keen to see the state's southeast throw its hat into the rings as a potential future Games host.

An exclusive Galaxy poll for The Courier-Mail shows 62 per cent of people support a possible bid for the 2028 event. Only 30 per cent oppose the idea, with 8 per cent uncommitted.

"That's pretty strong," Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said.

Should Brisbane bid to host the 2028 Olympic Games?

Yes No Undecided

[Vote!View Results](#)

"In terms of any potential bid, the support of the people is an essential ingredient. Without it, it's game over."

The Southeast Queensland Council of Mayors two weeks ago released a pre-feasibility report concluding that the 11 member councils could put together a competitive case to host the Olympics and Paralympics, with events at venues spread across the region.

Each council will now consider the report and vote over the next few weeks on whether to proceed to the next stage – a full feasibility analysis costing up to \$2.5

million. It will proceed only with the support of all 11.

Cr Quirk said he was “very confident” of progressing to the next stage.

Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate said: “I remain supportive. My number one focus is on the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. Council will consider the funding request at its next meeting (on August 23) with a vote expected on that day.”

Bidding for the 2028 event opens in 2019, and the pre-feasibility report says a bid could be the catalyst to expedite construction of billions of dollars of infrastructure, stimulate the economy and raise the region’s international profile.

The state and federal governments will be approached for funding if the bid is successful.

Brendan Lyon, chief executive of peak body Infrastructure Partnerships Australia says it would be just the trigger the Sunshine State needs to rediscover its mojo. “An Olympic bid would be an overwhelmingly good thing for Queensland to work towards as the state needs its confidence back,” he said.

Queensland Tourism Industry Council chief Daniel Gschwind agreed: “You have to aim high if you want to be a global destination.

“It is worth exploring at least. If we don’t at least look at these things, we will never know what might have been.”

Infrastructure Association of Queensland chief executive Steve Abson said the ability to leverage \$1.4 billion worth of new 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games infrastructure would help keep down the cost of an Olympics.

Brisbane Airport Corporation chief Julieanne Alroe said: “An Olympic bid from SEQ has great potential for establishing its profile internationally. It would be a demonstration of the sophisticated infrastructure and capability of Queensland.”

Chamber of Commerce and Industry spokesman Nick Behrens said major events were “great for business and marketing the state” but came at a cost to taxpayers.