

# Gold Coast goes private for new indoor arena

## **Rachel Riley**

Construction on a new indoor Gold Coast Arena is expected to begin within the next two years with private investors being sought for delivery by 2030.

The arena and a major upgrade of the Gold Coast Hockey Centre are two legacy projects set to be delivered by the City of Gold Coast.

The council intends for the

arena at Carey Park in Southport to be built and operated by a private investor – the same delivery plan Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie has for the Brisbane Arena at Woolloongabba.

"This project will be transformational for our city and a true example of the legacy the Games will deliver for us as a cohost city." Mayor Tom Tate said.

"This venue is vital for the city to attract world class music,

sport and other entertainment such as Esports. I can't wait to announce what sports and events are planned for this venue during the Games."

Invest Gold Coast will lead a commercial transaction process to identify potential arena investors. The investment and economic development organisation are in the "transaction planning phase" and aim to start area construction in 2027, with

two-to-three-year construction and 2030 delivery expected. legacy for our community that will attract world-class sport,

Invest Gold Coast chairman Will Hodgman said: "The Gold Coast is Australia's fastest-growing city and on the cusp of its next wave of transformational growth. This Games venue will be delivered by 2030 and is available to host Olympic sports not yet allocated.

"But it is more than just a Games venue – it is a lasting will attract world-class sport, live music and entertainment year-round."

Meanwhile, the proposed upgrade to the hockey centre at Labrador will deliver an additional synthetic turf hockey pitch and associated facilities.

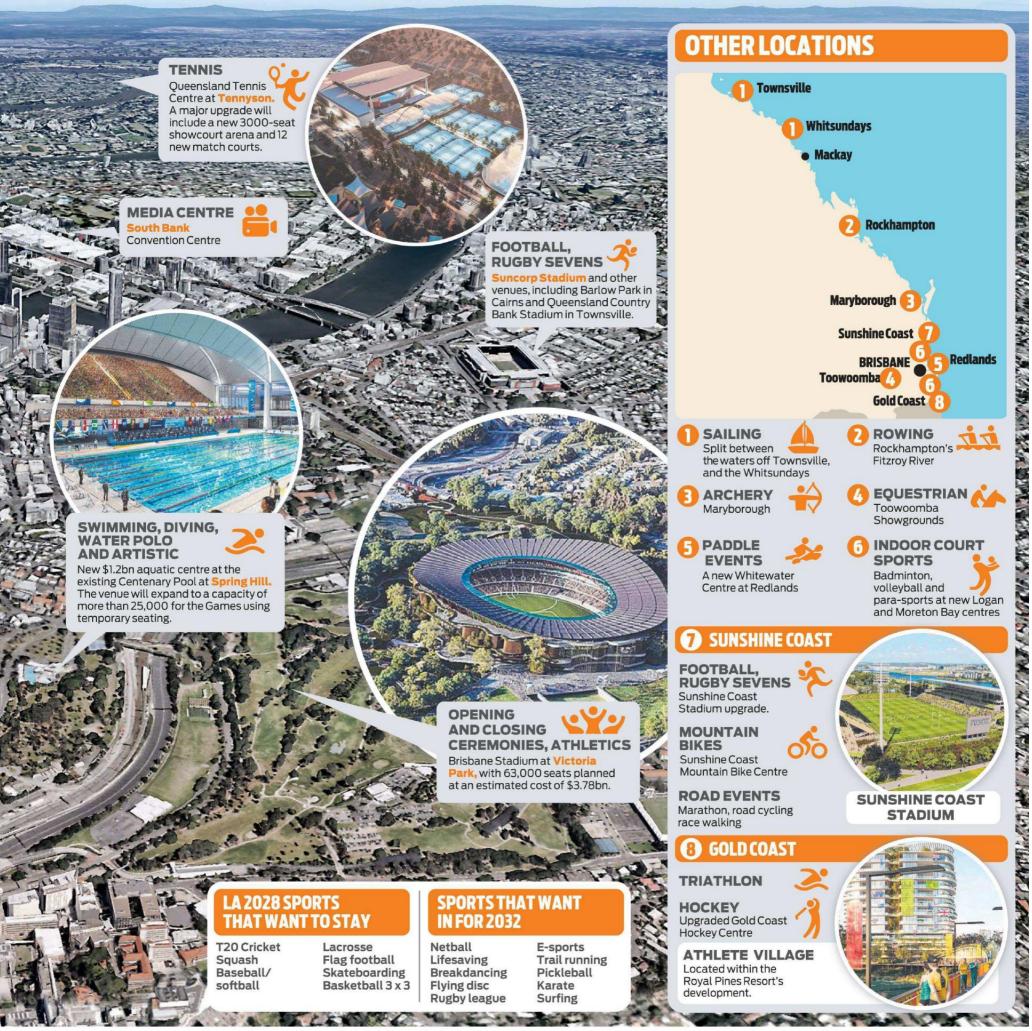
After 2032, the venue will host local, state and national hockey activities and enable the attraction of major events

such as world cups and world championships.

Preliminary investigations and stakeholder consultation are under way, starting with a masterplan for the whole of Keith Hunt Park, incorporating the Gold Coast Hockey Centre upgrade.

Construction timing will depend on major events before 2032, and minimising the impacts on existing users.

# 2032 COMES TOGETHER



Simon Crooks

## Getting the Games job done by hook or by Crooks

## EXCLUSIVE Hayden Johnson

Global infrastructure boss Simon Crooks has been tapped to lead the daunting task of delivering Queensland 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games venues.

In a major Games appointment, the state government has named the former Queen's Wharf infrastructure boss to become chief executive officer

of the Games Independent Infrastructure and Co-ordination Authority (GIICA).

He will start work on August 1 and oversee the authority's work delivering 17 new and upgraded venues across the state.

graded venues across the state. Mr Crooks enters the high-pressure CEO role with 40 years of local and global experience in major project delivery and most recently led the delivery of the Queen's Wharf tourism precinct.

"I am truly honoured to be given the opportunity to lead GIICA at such an exciting time for Oueensland." he said.

"I am looking forward to building on the work done to date, as we shift gears to delivery mode. There's no bigger event on the planet than the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and my focus is building a world-class legacy that all Queenslanders will be proud of for generations to come."

GIICA chairman Stephen Conry praised the appointment of Mr Crooks, which followed a "rigorous global executive search".

"It marks another critical milestone in GIICA's responsibilities as we progress delivery of vital infrastructure for Queensland," he said. "Simon is well regarded by industry and government.

"He understands the stakeholder engagement responsibilities inherent in the role. He is well qualified to maintain the critical momentum of delivery to ensure we meet our commitments to Queenslanders."

Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie said Mr Crooks' transparent and collaborative approach had earned respect across industry and government.

"I know that Simon will lead the delivery of this legacy infrastructure on the world stage," he said