**CUDA Brisbane Symposium**

**Edited Transcript for Rebecca Arnaud, Brisbane City Council**

**Local Government Perspective**

Rebecca’s background is in urban planning, and she emphasised the role of local government as the place where the action happens, albeit quietly. She spoke about the Brisbane Master Plan 2032 and her role as Manager of Legacy and Games Planning. Rebecca has been involved in one role or another since before the announcement in 2021 in Tokyo. She explained some of the changes the IOC made to the way they award the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Now the host city has to demonstrate that any new buildings or sports venues are needed for the community, not because of the Games.

“The new norm, which is the new approach to planning for Games, encourages host cities to use what they have and only build what they need. And so we had to go through this sort of exhaustive process of demonstrating that any new venue that we were proposing to build was based around community need.”

As there will be few new sports complexes, many of the events will be held in existing venues. However, this brings its own problems for accessibility because you don’t have a brand new venue to work with. Also, the venues are spread across the city.

“But it also comes with more complexity, because for your particular area of interest, you don't have this shiny, new Olympic Park on the edge of the city that's built from scratch, that meets all the standards, that has 80% of the activity that needs to go on for Games located within a very contained and curated space. Like, we don't have that. We have venues sprinkled throughout the urban fabric of the city, which means that how you move around the city is going to be absolutely critical to the interests that you all have in this room.”

Rebecca responded to an earlier comment by Jane Bringolf in the introduction to the session that the Games Legacy Plan (Elevate 2042) mentions universal design only once in the body of the document and then again on the last page.

“Elevate is actually the Games Delivery Partners' Legacy Plan for Brisbane 2032. Now, there are nine Games delivery partners, so that document was produced by the Australian Government, the Queensland Government, Brisbane as host city, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast as co-host cities, the AOC, Paralympics Australia, and the Council Mayors. So, with all of those authors, I'm not surprised you're a little disappointed that you didn't get a bigger spotlight on your issue. And everyone was coming at it from their own, you know, subject matter expertise.”

Rebecca said there were a lot of compromises made during the process of devising the legacy plan. However, the next phase of Elevate 2042 is to pull together the first-generation implementation plan and there is an opportunity to contribute to this.

“And that will be much more targeted around projects that can be delivered that make a difference. So, if, at the end of your symposium, you get to a point where you have some things that you want to put forward, that is actually the perfect platform to be doing that within.”

The Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (OCOG) recognises that other things need to happen to gear up for hosting the Games. One of those is accessibility and inclusion.

“And one of the non-OCOG programs that has just been stood up is Accessibility and Inclusion. And that is being looked at as a cross-cutting program. So, it's actually elevated in importance, which is great news for your agenda, and it has a steering committee, a working group, and an advisory group, with people that have lived experiences, being set up. … we've got 18 years to really put the spotlight on legacy issues that we want to use the Games to accelerate or change.”