The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach today welcomed in Lausanne, Switzerland, a delegation with members from all levels of government and the Olympic movement in Australia.

Chair of a cross-government Taskforce to explore the possibility of hosting the Olympic Games 2032, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk led the team that met with President Bach and IOC experts.

The IOC Member in Australia and President of the National Olympic Committee, John Coates, also joined the meetings.

The delegation heard presentations from the IOC on the organisation's mission and role, and the positive impact of Olympic Agenda 2020's reforms on the delivery and legacy of the Games.

Under the recently approved changes in the principles governing future Olympic Games elections, the IOC aims to establish a permanent, ongoing dialogue with cities, regions and countries wishing to explore hosting opportunities.

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: http://iocnewsroom.com

SHOTLIST:
Video 1

00:03 SOUNDbite: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)

“Please allow me to start by expressing all our sympathy to all the Queenslanders who have been affected by these terrible bushfires. We wish them all the very best. We know that Queenslanders are strong people and that they are optimistic people so we are confident that they will overcome this challenge and we of course understand that the Premier has to go back to her people and our best wishes are with you and with all of the Queenslanders.”
00:53 SOUNDBITE: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier (English language)

"Thankyou Mr President."

00:55 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)

"We had today an excellent and very fruitful meeting with many questions which have been asked and I hope that we could answer them in a satisfactory way so that you now have a sound basis to make a decision whether you would like to host the Olympic Games 2032 and that you have the confidence in the reforms that the IOC have been undertaking both with regard to the organisation of the game, a sustainable games, but also with regard to the candidatures. We are even more impressed then I was already during my recent visit in Brisbane and Queensland, when we could see how advanced the preparations were already at the time, we have seen further progress today when your project has been presented and we are as impressed by this progress, at least as impressed, by the greats of political and non-partisan support that the project enjoys and having here not only the Premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk but also having MP Ted O'Brien representing the Prime Minister with whom I had an excellent meeting on the occasion of the G20 summit and who was already at the time very supportive. Now I think your presence today is another demonstration of this support of the federal government but not only the government but also the representative of the opposition with MP Milton Dick, this is really, not only impressive, but it is also at this early stage, I must say innovative, to have all parties that are united behind this Olympic project and behind their sport in Australia and the Australian athletes. We had of course Mayor Mark Jamieson representing all his colleagues and Mayors in South East Queensland and this shows that this project is not only about the elite athletes, but it's about the communities. We have also been informed the Queenslanders themselves are highly supportive of the project, if you add to this then the enthusiasm for sport for which the 'Aussies' are well known and famous, which we have experienced many times, then I think it is fair to say that this project has all the ingredients to become a successful candidature and so the ball is in your court now to digest all this information to see what it means for you and then to take on a sound basis a sound and good decision."

05:42 SOUNDBITE: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier (English language)

"Thankyou, and from the outset Mr President can I sincerely thank you for your warm wishes to the people of Queensland that are going through a very difficult time at the moment with the bushfires, and I am going to personally pass on your thanks to especially those hard working firefighters that are working night and day to keep our people safe so thank you very much for expressing your best wishes there. Mr President, thank you very much for the kind invitation to be here today, we have thoroughly enjoyed our visit, it is a deep honour and one that we haven’t taken lightly. We have brought a united front because we believe that we work best when we work together and to have Ted O’Brien and Milton Dick as the federal representatives here and Mark Jamieson as the Mayor is just a wonderful show of unity and a sense of purpose. The extensive presentations we had today from the Olympic Committee members have been absolutely beneficial in terms of what we need to do next in terms of completing that value assessment as quickly as possible and I would really like to see that completed by the end of this year, by the end of November if we could make that happen. We were able to present to two members today the fact that we have already approximately 85% of venues that can be actually utilised for a prospective Olympics in 2032. I do believe we share such great common values, the ideals, the values of the Olympic movement that are all encompassing focussing on young
people, the athletes but also the communities and the pride that would bring Queensland and to everyone across our nation as well. So a lot of work to do but this could be a great opportunity, it could be a golden age for Queensland and one that sets Queensland’s future up for jobs and investment for decades to come. So once again Thank you very much for your kind invitation and we leave here now with a sense of purpose, a sense of partnership but most importantly a sense of great friendship.

08:05 SOUNDBITE: John Coates, AOC President (English language)

"President, Premier, this has been a very productive day, it’s been a great privilege for the Australian Olympic Committee at such an early stage to come to the IOC Headquarters with a united front with representatives at all three levels of government and we are very pleased with that. There was a lot of good dialogue today, one of the most important messages I think that we received was the preparedness of the IOC through its staff and team here to work with us if there is a decision to go ahead to refine the proposal and then it’s very clear that when the games are awarded these days the IOC doesn’t leave you alone to just go off and run them, the IOC and the International Federations effectively help with a turn key solution they’re your partner all the way and I think that’s very, very important - it’s a big improvement on where it was 30 years ago when you were on your own and you had to buy that expertise. It’s all here now so I was very pleased with that, this is very important for the Australian Olympic Committee, it’s very important for Australian sport. Australian sport needs another impetus. It’s 32 years since we had the games and you know what an impetus that was across a whole range of sports. This is an opportunity for us to focus again on sport, focus again on participation of all of our community all ages of Australians particularly in Queensland but throughout the country, increased participation and the venues that are being talked of the new ones, they’re all community venues they will be created in the most part before the games they’ll used by communities, they’ll be transformed for the games and go back to communities afterwards and that’s a message that we have to take back to Queensland so thank you President for this opportunity and thank you to your team for the presentations that they made to us today."

Media Q&A

Q. Premier, what happens now?

10:17 SOUNDBITE: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier (English language)

‘Ok so, what has been very good from today is that we now have key contacts here that we can communicate with and the next stage is very clearly for that value assessment to be completed by the end of November.’

Q. At what point will you be appointing the members to the future commission that will look into Summer Olympic Games bids and is there one thing that the Queensland officials have particularly impressed you with?

10:55 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)

“First of all with regard to the procedure we will now have an executive board meeting at the very beginning of October where we will decide upon the implementation of the reforms that we have just passed here two months ago in Lausanne. At the end of this discussion then I will be in a position to appoint the members of the two future host commissions, one
for Winter and one for Summer, then our friends from Queensland in Australia will have direct contact then already with these strategic commissions and can refer to them and then the procedure will take its course from there.”

“What impressed me most? There were quite a few things. It’s first the unity behind these projects and not only the political unity we have also with John a representative of the business community. It’s the enthusiasm once more from the ‘Aussies’ for sport. It’s, and I said this once more again over lunch as a European, I am very happy to meet optimistic and forward looking politicians, that was a very good experience. Then finally maybe the most lasting was how much were share our common values. We could discuss many details and issues but I think the guiding points were always the values like what does it mean for the contribution of sport to society? What does it mean for the community? What does it mean for the youth? What does it mean for gender equality? How can we make it more sustainable? How can we protect the environment? So all these values we are sharing and I think that this is what, in the long run, will be the most important.”

Q. How many more facilities do we need to build and is an 80,000 seat stadium a new one on the cards and where will that be built?

14:10 SOUNDBITE: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier (English language)
“Well this is what the value assessment is doing at the moment but I think where we are in a very good position is the fact that we do have 85% of the existing infrastructure that is needed and with the new norm that comes in at 2020 it actually means that the Olympics can be more flexible. I really would like to see that these would be the people’s games so it’s a benefit for the people and it’s a Games that is inclusive of our people so we’ll get all of that work done and we’ll be having continued discussions with the IOC. We now have those key contacts as we work through this value assessment so we will be able to make a very significant decision by the end of November.”

14:58 SOUNDBITE: John Coates, AOC President (English language)
“I’d like to just address the issue of a capacity stadium of 80,000 and there’s no requirement for that at all. The maximum is 60,000 thats what’s being provided in Tokyo and that’s what London provided and that could be a stadium that could reduce to a lesser amount afterwards depending on what the legacy is going to be but there is no requirement for 80,000.”

Q. Is there the potential for us to use a stadium that we already have?

15:27 SOUNDBITE: John Coates, AOC President (English language)
“There isn’t a stadium to my mind. I think that there will need to be something developed for Athletics and the Ceremonies. There is an option with the Gabba but probably I think that a new stadium has to be prepared but similar to the way in which it was done with London that could be reduced afterwards but the days of 80,000 the days of 115,000 for Sydney is not required.”

15:52 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“Ceremonies could even be organised in the city.”
15:55 SOUNDBITE: John Coates, AOC President (English language)
“On the river!”

Q. Mr. President are there any areas of sticking points that you think this delegation need to go away and come back with new ideas before an official bid?

16:14 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“No. It is, as I said, it’s really impressive what I have been told by our colleagues here at the IOC are that the questions were really going in depth and it showed a level of real high preparedness and this is not what you really expect normally 13 years before the Games. It normally takes many, many years until a candidature committee or an organising committee gets so far. The only advice is to keep going like this.”

Q. What is the earliest that the IOC would think of awarding a Games for 2032?

17:27 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“This will very much depend on the further development of the projects. There I have good news for the IOC and not so good news maybe for you because there are a number of cities and countries that have shown interest therefore we cannot give a deadline today but it will be again very much in the hands of you there in Brisbane and in Queensland how fast the project is developing. What I can say with some confidence that we will not wait until 2025 when the decision would be normally taken but we will take a decision once the projects are mature and we can have the full confidence and after this experience here today I am more confident that this will not last until 2025.”

Q. In regards to transportation and infrastructure how important is it in your decision making and how important is it that the infrastructure is used after a Games?

19:14 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“First of all there is no city on this planet and no region which can just digest an Olympic Games and I think here this will not affect our overall transportation plan and which will not pose challenges for the athletes and the visitors so this we have to acknowledge and then we have learnt on the other hand that in Queensland anyway that there is great projects going on to improve transportation and that you need this anyway to manage the growing population and to manage the growth of your economy so there we are at one point where we want to be with our reforms in Olympic Agenda 2020 to say we want the Games in a way that they fit with the long term development plan of the city and the region and this we can see here that it fits perfectly, you have these plans anyway and there the games can even serve as an accelerator as a catalyst and as a boost also with regard to the economy.”

Q. What was your reaction to the Queensland video put together by the Government, does that get you over the line already?

21:08 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“(Laughter) I don’t need to see videos I had my own experience in Queensland, just a couple of months ago and there I said already, it’s a beautiful environment it’s a sports loving region, it’s a growing region, it’s an optimistic region, the people were friendly and lovely, I enjoyed the food, so what do you want to hear more?!”
Q. How much contribution will the IOC be looking to give the successful 2032 host city and in what areas will you be looking to provide assistance financially?

22:03 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English language)
“We will support the organisation of the Olympic Games LA 2028 by a contribution of 1.8 billion US dollars to the success of the games and at this moment in time we have no reason to believe that it will be less.”

Q. Premier, what are the thoughts behind you cutting your trip short and what prompted you to make that decision?

22:39 SOUNDBITE: Annastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Premier (English language)
“Look, this most important meeting that I had scheduled on this trade mission was here today that has finished and I am constantly in contact back at home and of course I am just as worried as everyone else and Mr President understands that I have to leave straight after the meeting and I’ll be going straight back home.”

End

Video 2
00:03 Aerial shot of ‘Olympic House’ IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.
00:06 Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk arrives at Olympic House.
00:17 Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk greeted by IOC President Thomas Bach.
00:23 Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk given a guided tour of the Olympic House by IOC President Thomas Bach.
00:37 Shot of the interior stairwell of Olympic House, IOC Headquarters.
00:41 Premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk poses for photographers with IOC President Thomas Bach and other members of the Australian delegation.
00:51 Premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk sitting in the office of IOC President Thomas Bach.
01:00 Various shots of the meeting between the Australian delegation and IOC experts.

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