



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard 27 May 1999

MR R. THORNBERRY

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (7.12 p.m.): Tonight, I rise to speak about a young Queenslander who, on 6 June, will make history for his country, his family and I think, importantly, for himself. I am privileged to know Rick Thornberry, who in Cardiff, Wales, on that day will fight for the World Boxing Organisation Super Middleweight World Title. Rick is a professional boxer based in Gatton who, with the guidance and management of his brother, Noel, gets his chance to be world champion.

Boxing is a minor sport in Australia compared with most of the world and the disappointment is that Rick is better known in the United Kingdom and in Europe than he is in his own State of Queensland. In a sport that is plagued by an alphabet of different boxing organisations, Rick has struggled and battled to become the No. 1 challenger in the world, and on 6 June he gets his chance to become world champion.

It will not be easy. He will have to defeat the unbeaten world champion, a Welshman by the name of Joe Calzaghe, and he will have to beat him in Cardiff, Wales. Members should make no mistake, Joe Calzaghe is an institution in Wales.

Some time this year the ABC will show a documentary about Rick and his family, tentatively titled *Fire and Ice*. The ABC has purchased the story from a production company that has followed Rick around for the past 12 months. I know that many members of this Parliament have met Rick and members of his family. This morning, the MLA for Noosa asked me how Rick was going in his world title bid. I know that many years ago the Minister for Sport, Mr Gibbs, the member for Bundamba, sparred with Rick's father, Trevor Thornberry, at Reg Layton's gym. Also, I know that the member for Indooroopilly has kept up to date with what Rick is doing.

All I can say—and I am sure that I echo the thoughts of all members of Parliament—is: good luck, Rick. I know that the wishes and hopes of all Queensland will be with him on 6 June in Cardiff, Wales.
