



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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PINE RIVERS GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP DAY

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah) (10.20 a.m.): Graffiti is a blight on our community. There is some evidence to suggest that, where graffiti is allowed to flourish, the crime rate is much greater. It is said that, if you keep an area free of graffiti, there will be less vandalism. This is why the Pine Rivers Crime Free Consultative Committee has targeted graffiti as one of its crime prevention measures. On Sunday, 12 September, the committee is having a spring clean with a day dedicated to cleaning up graffiti in Pine Rivers. This builds on other initiatives of the committee, such as putting in shops selling cans of spray paint signs warning that graffiti is a crime.

I am pleased to inform members that State Ministers and authorities have embraced this project and have been most forthcoming in their support. I make particular mention of Steve Bredhauer, the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, who has advised that both Main Roads and Q-Rail will take part in the clean-up. Main Roads is taking responsibility for cleaning up their infrastructure from kerb to kerb whilst Q-Rail is supplying the paint and equipment.

Energex has also been most supportive, with a \$500 donation as well as a commitment to have their staff clean up Energex infrastructure. Regrettably, the committee is still waiting to hear from Telstra. The local community, through service clubs such as the Kallangur Lions, together with the Lawnton Boy Scouts and local high schools including Pine Rivers State High School and North Pine Christian College, will be providing the many helpers needed on the day. I am happy to say I will also be donning overalls and taking paintbrush in hand to help clean. Of course, the Pine Rivers Shire Council will be doing its bit.

The crime free committee is very mindful that one clean-up day will not eliminate graffiti, but it is hoped that this will provide the impetus for our local community to take ownership of the problem. Whilst some businesses and property owners have been very supportive, others are indifferent to this initiative. Some are more than happy to lay blame, but they are not willing to pitch in and show we are taking a stand. With the show of support so far, the spring clean should be a successful day, a day upon which to build towards greater community pride. I congratulate all involved.

Time expired.
