



Speech by

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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CHERMSIDE HISTORICAL PRECINCT

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermside—ALP) (7.26 p.m.): I rise to inform the House that the Chermside historical precinct is one step closer to fulfilling its role as being a viable community centre. The Federal Department of Defence has finally decided that the Sandgate drill hall can be moved from its site into the section of 7th Brigade Park that is being set up as a historical precinct. Together with the new Voyager centre, which was the old Sea Scouts building, and the Chermside State School, which has recently been relocated from the position it held at the corner of Rode and Gympie Roads for almost a century, this complex is starting to take shape.

Council officers are working diligently to process the lease arrangements. The joint steering committee members have been working hard over recent months. These members include the Kedron-Wavell RSL sub-branch, the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, the Uniting Church of Chermside/Kedron, the trustees of the 9th Battalion Museum, the trustees of the Milne Bay historical group, the Chermside and Districts Historical Society, the Federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, Councillor Terry Hampson and myself.

Through this wide community support, members have been working hard to provide a centre for the local community which will be the focal point of research and community activity. But I must say that we have had a problem in recent times, particularly with the Sandgate drill hall and the heritage listing of that building. Legislation which was designed to benefit the community has shown, through this recent experience, that certain Federal heritage bureaucrats and some of their State colleagues ignore the needs of the community and, in fact, hide behind the strict letter of the law to leave the community wondering just what they are doing. I have some reservations about the way in which the legislation, which was designed to bring benefits to the community, is used in other ways.

But the good news is that the Chermside historical precinct is starting to take shape. The people who have worked towards it by getting the Federation Funding and the relocation of the Chermside State School can be proud of their work, and the community will benefit.