



Speech by

DESLEY SCOTT

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard 7 August 2002

LOGAN CITY ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (12.08 a.m.): Logan City celebrates its 21st birthday this year. It is our coming of age. Much of the social capital in our city has gathered strength in recent years, and so I suggest that our recent gains in the arts are a true indication of the health and maturity of our city. Our talent is broad and very rich. Our 162 cultures weave a wonderful tapestry of visual arts, music and dance. And so it was with all of these indicators that Logan City Council embarked upon a birthday gift of very substantial measure to its citizens—a \$6 million arts and entertainment centre consisting of \$2 million from council funds, \$2 million from the state and local government Regional Centres Program and \$2 million from our Arts Minister. From the vision of the Mayor of Logan, John Freeman, and his councillors, in partnership with our state government, plans were put in place. On 26 July we welcomed Premier Peter Beattie and Arts Minister Matt Foley to the official opening. It was a wonderful occasion for our city.

Mr English: Great event.

Mrs DESLEY SCOTT: It was a tremendous night. There are many people who played a very important role in bringing this project to fruition, and I am indebted to Mr Gary Kellar, CEO and formerly Town Clerk of Logan City Council for the past 21 years, for my list of those we should thank. The design and construction team comprised manager Ridgemill, builders Sommer and Staff Construction and architects Cox Rayner. Management of the project was undertaken by the following team: Martin Cooper of Ridgemill; Nigel Brown, community infrastructure manager of Logan City Council; and construction and maintenance supervisor Trevor Williams. Cultural services manager, Carolyn Johnson, gave guidance in the choice of public art for the project. Supporting these managers and supervisors has been an army of workers who brought the dream to reality. I consider Logan City to be very fortunate to have acquired the services of Ms Stephanie Walkem as venue manager and master chef Gerda Eiltz who both come with a wealth of experience.

However, we must reserve our highest accolade for Mr Oliver Simon whose skills encompass a wide range of activities and, in the words of our CEO, include design director, overall quality watchdog, contract administrator, negotiator, recruiter, style consultant, landscaper, security adviser and wine taster, as well as overall project manager. We applaud him for overseeing yet another successful major project in Logan. This has been an amazing team effort—constructed on time, on budget and designed to give maximum use and flexibility to our community. Its tiered seating can be folded up and wheeled into storage, allowing the centre to cater for large conventions.

Time expired.
