



Speech by

## Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Wednesday, 10 May 2006

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### MIRIAM VALE SHIRE COUNCIL, RAINES ROAD/USSHERS ROAD

**Mr MESSENGER** (Burnett—NPA) (10.03 pm): Tonight I table two non-conforming petitions. The first is calling on the Miriam Vale Shire Council to 'Save our Gym', which is a document of approximately 500 signatures urging the Miriam Vale Shire Council to reconsider its decision to close the Agnes Water Gym and Fitness Worx. The second is an upgrade of Raines Road/Usshers Road to two lanes wide with a bitumen seal, with funding to be allocated as part of the 2006-07 budget.

I recently attended a meeting of concerned Miriam Vale shire residents—and there were about 55 people there—who were very upset by the local council's decision to close the only Agnes Water gym run by Vonnie Marx and Neil Cunningham. I have spoken with many people whose lives have been dramatically changed for the better because they have attended the gym. For example, I spoke to a lass named Emma. She said to me—

Vonnie and Neil offered me about two or three months of personal training for free off their own bat and if it wasn't for Vonnie and Neil then I wouldn't have lost 42 kg. I feel heaps better, much better.

Joe Bassard is a 15-year-old lad who plays football—or soccer as I call it—to whom I spoke. He wants to be an Australian soccer player. Joe said to me—

It's good way to exercise and keep fit for my sporting. Vonnie is just so good at what she does in the gym—helping you with all the stuff you need to and you forget how to do. All the exercises.

Tonight I call on Mayor Tom Jeffery and his councillors to reconsider and reverse their decision to close down the only gym in Agnes Water/1770. I table a further six letters of support.

Raines Road at South Kolan is one of the worst roads in Australia, according to Larry and Jocelyn Wondrock. They state—

In 2005 3 single vehicle accidents occurred on the gravel sections that the school bus travels. All vehicles were written off, 1 driver hospitalized ... the school bus travels on the western gravel sections of Raines Road and refuses to collect our children when the road becomes wet.

I join with Larry and Jocelyn Wondrock and the 200 or more residents of South Kolan and surrounding districts in requesting that Burnett Shire councillors and this state government allocate funds in this coming budget so that Raines Road can be urgently upgraded. If this road is not upgraded, I fear that there will be more unnecessary accidents and, God forbid, loss of life. I remind the House that this road is used as a school bus run. By ignoring the community call for a road upgrade, local government and also the state government are gambling with children's lives.