



Speech by

## Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 21 May 2009

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### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.00 pm): I wish to once again extend my best wishes to the Speaker in this week, a week when the institution of the Speakership is indeed being tested in the so-called mother of parliaments. Further I wish to congratulate all the new members of the 53rd Queensland Parliament who have made their first speeches, some of which have been very memorable.

However, my purpose in rising in this address-in-reply is to make the appropriate commitments to our form of government and to the people of Queensland before making some remarks about the new electorate of Stafford and the recent election. I say 'new electorate' because, as a result of the 2008 redistribution, while the name has remained the same some significant changes have occurred. Basically all of the areas of the former electorate east of Gympie and Lutwyche Roads on the north side of Brisbane have been transferred to the divisions represented in this House by the members for Nudgee and Clayfield. In compensation, the suburbs of the Grange, Wilston and parts of Alderley, Newmarket, Windsor and McDowall have joined my constituents in Stafford, Stafford Heights, Gordon Park, and parts of Chermside, Chermside West, Kedron and Lutwyche.

Whilst these boundary changes have resulted in local institutions close to my heart and important to my northside community, such as the Chermside Historical Precinct, the Kedron-Wavell Services Club, the historic Edinburgh Castle Hotel and Wavell State High no longer being in the Stafford electorate, I am committed to these new boundaries and enjoy the support of the people who live in the electorate of Stafford. I did, however, join the minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services and the member for Nudgee at the recent celebrations of Wavell State High School's 50th anniversary, a very enjoyable occasion indeed with many people who were reminiscing about old times at that great and important state public high school on the north side of Brisbane.

While I was very disappointed in the Electoral Commission's decision to divide up the important regional activity centre at Chermside, I am excited by the wider range of northside institutions which I am equally passionate about that now fall into the new electorate of Stafford. One is Valleys Juniors Rugby League Club which, from its ground and family-friendly clubhouse at Emerson Park, the Grange, carries on the traditions of Queensland's first rugby league club as the Diehards playing in the royal blue.

**Mr Dick:** The mighty Diehards!

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I acknowledge the interjection from the Attorney-General. Another historic local club is Grange Thistle Football Club which this year celebrates its centenary of soccer on Brisbane's north side. These clubs join Stafford electorate mainstays, such as Wilston Grange AFL, Brothers Juniors RLFC and the Brisbane Netball Association, as important institutions, in particular for young people involved in the healthy activities of junior sport.

During the election I enjoyed meeting many new people in the historic and rapidly changing tin and timber streets of those new areas of my electorate. But standing at this time I also want to express my ongoing appreciation to the great Australian Labor Party for its endorsement of me as the Labor candidate

and acknowledge the outstanding campaign run by our team in Stafford. My campaign director, Dave Mortleman, other team members, Katie Hume, Sue Jablonski, Michael Mellifont, Glen Chatterton, Brenton Hill, Anne Syvret, David Jones, Ian Schmidt and James McCarthy all made an outstanding contribution to the campaign. Others who went beyond the usual call included James White and Zac Skyring. My wife Megan and the whole of our families and our friends were tremendous contributors to the campaign, as I know were the families of members across this parliament to their campaigns.

It was a tough election campaign where significant local issues were not entirely lost in the maelstrom of the global recession. The ongoing challenges to my local community arising out of the development of Australia's largest infrastructure project are not ignored. I look forward to my new role of working to get the best outcomes not just for the congestion-busting and public transport outcomes that the Airport Link project will provide but also for the liveability of our local suburbs.

The correct decision to commit to a single children's tertiary hospital was a significant challenge to a northside community understandably attached to the Royal. I will pay tribute to my friend Bonnie Barry by working with Minister Lucas and Parliamentary Secretary Watt to deliver the children's emergency department at the Prince Charles Hospital in my electorate.

Ultimately it was the Bligh Labor team's commitment to jobs, not job cuts, which saw my re-election and the re-election of the government in this sequicentenary of the separation of Queensland from New South Wales. This 150th anniversary comes at a time of global economic circumstances that are reminiscent of the 1890s and the 1930s. That is why I am proud to serve the people of Stafford and, indeed, the people of Queensland by continuing a building program which will put food on the tables of many families and cash in the tills of many businesses and also develop the infrastructure needed for our state to be prepared for the inevitable global economic upturn.