



Speech by

Di Farmer

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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BULIMBA ELECTORATE, SPORTING CLUBS

Ms FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (9.55 pm): There are 46 sporting organisations in the Bulimba electorate, each vibrant and dynamic in its own way and each with its own community of people who are very proud of what their club achieves. We have seen some great victories in this last season, and I have loved doing the rounds of the trophy presentations to congratulate players, coaches and officials on their efforts—regardless of whether they won—and, in the case of the junior clubs, to thank the mums and dads for the efforts they go to to make sure their kids are participating.

There are two clubs in particular, though, which really rate a special mention: the Morningside AFL, which celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, and the Southside Eagles Soccer Club. Both clubs have had their own difficult histories, but both now, with the guidance of excellent committees, have beaten the odds to finish the season at the top of their game.

I can still feel my heartbeat going into overdrive from watching the Morningside Panthers win the grand final against Labrador a couple of weeks ago. They looked like they were gone in the third quarter but managed to pull back and win by a huge margin. And they do not win like this because they pay huge salaries to their players. They win because they all love their club and their team, and they have all got big hearts. This, and the excellent leadership of captains Kent Abey and Jacob Gough, and the coaching of John Blair—who celebrated his 300th game this year—and assistant Mark Holman, make them the team they are.

In so many ways the Southside Eagles' story is a similar one. There was huge excitement in the club last week when their top senior team, having finished as minor premiers and securing promotion to division 1 for 2011, won the grand final. The Eagles do not pay big money to their players, either. They figure that if people want to play because they love the club and love their team then they are the players who are going to stick around and do their best, through thick and thin. I so enjoyed being at the club's annual dinner on Friday night to see their huge pride in all the teams and particularly in the pinnacle achievement of moving to division 1. I congratulate the squad, coaches Gary Henshaw and Sid Camiolo, and all the friends and supporters of the Eagles.

But it is the management committee members and support staff of both of these clubs who perhaps deserve the most credit, for their efforts in pulling their clubs up by the bootstraps and encouraging such a positive culture. For the Panthers that is John, David, Mike, Jack and Desley and the many others who have worked tirelessly for the club. For the Eagles that is Nev, Jodie, Joe, Robbo, Kerrie, Chris and Steve and the many others on their committee who have done so much.

These are great clubs, and they give pleasure to many people in the Bulimba electorate. I thank them for everything they do and for their wonderful achievements.