




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Kingaroy Rugby League Football Club

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.48 pm): I rise in the House tonight to call on the Queensland Rugby League to grant our wonderful community of Kingaroy, who have provided so many wonderful players and future NRL players, an Intrust Super Cup day in 2014. The Kingaroy Red Ants rugby league club are one of the superb country rugby league clubs across—

Mr Mander: The old Red Ants.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The old Red Ants, absolutely. This week we had the second annual parliamentary country versus city touch match—and of course country won again for the second year! I would like to thank the QRL for their support for our country-city touch match. It was wonderful to be able to see Jamie O'Connor from the Queensland Rugby League and Arthur Eustace-Earle from the NRL, so I was able to lobby for the Kingaroy Red Ants to get one of these amazing days.

QRL has stated that, by relocating matches to rural and regional areas, it has become a vehicle for delivering some of the game's elite players to areas that would otherwise be deprived of the privilege. I say that QRL should be giving Kingaroy this wonderful privilege. Our area has provided amazing players—Matt Ballin; Chris McQueen; Chris Sandow; Steve Renouf; Gavin Cooper, who plays for Northern Queensland; Willie Tonga; young players like Esikeli Tonga, who plays for the Titans; and previous players like Dave Brown, Brian Preacher Smith, Bryan Niebling, Bunny Pearce, Mike Burns and Tony Marshall.

The wonderful member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, an ex-rugby league player himself, has agreed to come to Kingaroy for the Intrust Super Cup should we get it. Not only that, I have just had the opportunity to speak to a previous NRL referee, the honourable Minister for Housing, Tim Mander, who has also agreed to come to Kingaroy if we are able to secure the Intrust Super Cup.

This initiative is not only about the delivery of players and the game. This is about the community and the economic development it can bring to my wonderful town of Kingaroy. These games have an average TV viewership of some 68,000 people. What a wonderful way to showcase the beautiful town of Kingaroy and everything that we can do. It is about investment in our local area. It is about providing opportunity for our people. It is also about providing the youngsters of our region a view into a future in the NRL.