



Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Mudgeeraba, School Leaders

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.46 pm): I rise to update the House on the great potential of our student leaders in Mudgeeraba. Throughout this year, I have hosted the school captains and vice-captains of schools from the Mudgeeraba electorate at Parliament House so that they could have an opportunity to explore and learn about this important institution. I was delighted that student leaders such as Ryan Hodson, Zoe Tully, Tristan Finnegan, Ellen Scott-Young, Joshua Capuano and Chloe Legg of Emmanuel College; Matthew Hager and Tessa Neethling of Kings Christian College; Spencer North, Holly Smibert, Liam Budd and Georgia Nicol of Robina State High School; Liam Rawson, Elizabeth Thomas, Darcy Morris and Caitlin Bourke of Somerset College; and Ben Oram, Jaimie Jaafar, Francis Wherby and Madaline Hartwig of St Michael's College were able to learn firsthand about their parliament.

The students began their day with a guided tour of the parliament before having lunch in the cafeteria and discussing their plans for the future. It was wonderful to hear of the impressive plans that these capable young people have crafted for their futures and the ways in which they plan to contribute to their community. Our lunch also gave the students an opportunity to ask questions about my experiences as their local member in this House and the realities and challenges entailed in balancing the needs of a diverse community.

When we had finished our lunch, the students and I visited the floor of the Legislative Assembly and they saw, many for the first time, the chamber in which our laws have been made for over 150 years. It was wonderful that, throughout the year, many of my parliamentary colleagues took the time to stop and meet with the students and share their insights and knowledge before the students took their seats in the gallery to watch question time.

In particular, I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for making yourself readily available on four separate occasions to explain to the captains and vice-captains the crucial and no doubt challenging role of the Speaker in maintaining order in this House. In addition, the students were delighted that the Premier, the Treasurer and the Attorney-General each made time throughout the year to meet with them and provide unique insight into the vast responsibilities of high office.

It was wonderful to have been able to meet with such outstanding young people as I was also reminded of the invaluable role that our teachers and educational institutions play in shaping the young lives, values and ambitions of our country's future leaders. We are very lucky in Mudgeeraba to have a group of talented, caring and experienced educators leading our schools and guiding our young ones. I thank them for their tireless service to our community. I am very much looking forward to continuing my close working relationship with all of my local schools and to continuing to update members on the achievements and successes of Mudgeeraba's student leaders.