




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Jets Rugby League Club

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.19 pm): I rise to speak about the Queensland Rugby League state champions, the Ipswich Jets, who last week were presented with the keys to the City of Ipswich, an honour well deserved for this talented and tenacious team of Rugby League players. So impressive were the team's achievements this season that the *Queensland Times* has dubbed 2015 the 'Year of the Jets'. The Jets not only won the September Intrust Super Cup grand final over the Townsville Blackhawks, which netted them their first state premiership after 33 years of striving, but also went on to defeat the Newcastle Knights at the NRL state championship grand final the following week in Sydney. It was a remarkable feat of dedication and sportsmanship, and they have delighted Ipswich Rugby League fans beyond measure.

We know about the contribution the Ipswich Jets make on field. As the member for Ipswich, I would like to place on record the contribution the Jets extend to the Ipswich community off field—firstly, their work with the ALARA association, which provides support and respite services for people with disabilities in the Ipswich region. I commend the Jets for their inspiring work to help people with a disability get involved in the game through their ALARA Jets touch football team. The ALARA Jets work to improve player self-esteem, fitness, social connections, independence and quality of life as well as allowing them to be part of a team focused on their abilities and just have fun. They are hoping to establish a competition and have put the call out to encourage other football clubs or organisations to start a similar team in their local community.

The Ipswich Jets have assisted local schools, charities and community service organisations including Ipswich Hospice, the Queensland Cancer Council, the Leukaemia Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Ipswich Special School. The Jets have led the way when it comes to raising awareness of domestic violence in our community. As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our local DVAC service runs the annual Walk a Mile in her Shoes event. The Jets participate in this event each year and display a prowess that is perhaps not as well known, which is their ability to walk a considerable distance in high heels.

The Jets developed a reconciliation action plan approved by Reconciliation Australia in 2012. I congratulate the Jets, their CEO and former member of this House, Wayne Wendt, Steven Johnson, coaches Ben and Shane Walker, and everyone who has worked so hard to ensure this remarkable victory for our Ipswich Jets and for our city.