




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Australian Hockey League

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.16 pm): Much has been said during the week regarding the outstanding result for Queensland Rugby League on the first Sunday in October—a great and proud result for Queensland. Queenslanders from across our great state should be equally proud of another mighty Maroons result in a national sporting battle that took place a couple of days earlier at Sydney Olympic stadium—the grand final of the women’s Australian Hockey League, known to the hockey world as the AHL. The AHL is Australia’s premier national domestic hockey competition and is widely recognised as one of the strongest and most competitive national leagues in the world.

The Queensland Scorchers, our women’s team, clinched a 2-1 victory over the Victorian Vipers and the Blades, our men’s team, had a hard-fought 2-1 win over the WA Thundersticks. These results are outstanding. It is the second grand final win in three years for both teams and is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of the players and the coaching and support staff. Congratulations must go to Lee Bodimeade, the Scorchers coach, and Mick Evans, the Blades coach, for their successes. These women and men, many who compete at an international level representing the Hockeyroos or the Kookaburras, are professionals and great role models. But, unlike the NRL, these players do not get paid, there is no national television coverage and nor is there any corporate sponsorship. Hockey, which has great and strong female regional representation, is played across our great state and both the Scorchers and the Blades are strongly represented by players from Far North, Central, Western and South-East Queensland and across to the Tweed border.

With the support of the Queensland Academy of Sport, Hockey Queensland, regional hockey associations, clubs, volunteers, parents and sponsors, these elite players are given the opportunity to reach their potential. I acknowledge the contribution of the Queensland Academy of Sport head women’s coach, Des King, and the QAS men’s head coach, Matthew Wells, for the Scorchers and Blades success. The Australian women’s team, the Hockeyroos, are ranked second in the world and the men’s team, the Kookaburras, are ranked No. 1 in the world. Hockey is our most successful team sport at the Olympic Games, with the Hockeyroos being regarded as one of Australia’s most successful sporting teams, boasting three Olympic gold medals from the past six games as well as winning two world cups and four Commonwealth gold medals. The Hockeyroos have been crowned Australia’s Team of the Year five times. Queensland is strongly represented in these Australian teams. Madonna Blyth, the current Scorchers and Hockeyroos captain, has a record 308 test caps and 67 goals. Donnie has been named in the FIH all-star team of the year many times. She is a proud Queenslanders who leads by example, scoring the winning goal in the AHL final. Hockey is truly a world game and it is a game where our Queensland players, both women and men—

(Time expired)