



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**


**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Friends of Rugby League

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.25 pm): It is my pleasure to rise as the final speaker in this adjournment debate to make the final government contribution in an adjournment that has been themed with the great game of NRL. One of my roles in this place which I hold with great pride is the parliamentary co-chair of the Friends of Rugby League. This group serves to connect MPs and their local clubs with the National Rugby League and Queensland Rugby League. Across Queensland there are 399 clubs—juniors and seniors—equating to hundreds of thousands of girls and boys and men and women who engage each season in our wonderful game. There are hundreds and thousands of families from the cape to the bush and the country to the coast.

One of the personal highlights of mine this season was joining the member for Capalaba and the member for Cleveland at Stradbroke Island. On Quandamooka country we watched the Wynnum Manly Seagulls take on the Souths Logan Magpies as part of the reconciliation rounds in the season. At this round I got to see firsthand the great work being done by Deadly Choices through the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. I would like to recognise Adrian and the Deadly Choices team for their work, particularly in healthy choices and health promotion. I would like to acknowledge the Palaszczuk government, particularly health minister Cameron Dick, on the investment made in this essential program.

It was a pleasure for me to join Adrian in my local success story of the Strathpine clinic mid-season to help launch the Deadly Choices onesie for young bubs. For me this is what Rugby League is all about—community. Right across the state we have seen a tremendous display of footy this season. The mighty Queensland Maroons once again did us proud in returning home the State of Origin shield. True to form and much to the member for Mirani's dismay, the Maroons ensured that Queenslanders have a dominating record. The showdown at Lang Park on 8 July was my personal highlight, with a cracking 52-6 score line.

The Intrust Super Cup's Ipswich Jets saw real talent and footy strategy at its greatest. If you thought the Blackhawks and Jets game was a cracker, the following week against Newcastle the Jets showed the country what they were really made of. Tonight the ever-proud member for Ipswich West and member for Ipswich have shed some light on the Jets' strategy for success. I congratulate the Jets on a sterling season. They lifted the game week after week and set the bar high. Four trophies in less than a month and the keys to the City of Ipswich—what an accomplishment.

The season was not all highlights; there was also sadness. Sunshine Coast Falcons prop James Ackerman passed away aged 25 after an on-field incident while playing the North Devils in June this year. The tributes and testimonials that followed highlighted to the world the character of the father of two. Respect, courage and the best of attitudes were repeated comments from the Sunshine Coast and football community as they mourned the loss of James. There have been many players whom we have seen end their careers this season, and we thank them. We also thank the NRL for its support this season.