




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 29 October 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Simonds, Mr R

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (6.55 pm): As everyone in this place knows, the role of being an MP has many ups and downs. I had an experience recently which can only be described as one of the ups. I have a constituent in Kallangur named Russell Simonds. Russell is a fellow motoring enthusiast and talks about how his father used to take him to Lakeside raceway as a kid and they would watch the touring cars. Russell dreamed of driving a car around and racing himself one day. However, Russell has never driven a car as he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a teenager and never got the opportunity.

That does not stop his love of racing. He regularly catches a train from Petrie station north to Dakabin station and drives his wheelchair down to the track to watch the racing. Sadly, when he travels home from Lakeside he has to catch the train one station north from Dakabin to Narangba to be able to cross the track to catch a return train as Dakabin has no disability access.

In March 2014 the footbridge was upgraded. Why there was no disability access added at this time, I cannot understand. This lack of disability access is one of the many reasons I am pushing for an upgrade and was happy to support the recent petition for an upgrade to Dakabin station.

Since being elected, I have met Russell, who is a strong advocate for disability services in the area, on numerous occasions. I have been working with council to assist him with access issues in the area. The other weekend we were able to go a bit further. On that particular afternoon I went out to Lakeside to give my old GT Falcon a run. I bumped into Russell and was able to get him in my car to be my co-pilot for a session.

I would really like to thank John and Amanda Tetley and their staff for their kindness in stopping the racing to allow Russell to cross the track. They treated him like a VIP as well as let us fit in with the other patrons' scheduled drives to allow the maximum track time for him. The visible enjoyment on his face certainly made my day and this will definitely not be a one-off event.

One of the key assets in the Kallangur electorate is Lakeside raceway. As I said in my first speech in this place, I am committed to supporting and seeing Lakeside raceway used as the great sports facility it is. Lakeside is special to so many people in our community who, like me, love motorsport. It has great potential as a facility for driver training. I will continue working with the facility operators, John and Amanda Tetley, council and the relevant state authorities and departments to further this work.