




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Beenleigh Town Square

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.49 pm): Last week I was delighted to kickstart the new heart of my electorate, the newly constructed and renovated Beenleigh Town Square. The town square was officially opened by myself representing the Premier, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Logan Mayor Pam Parker and local elder Auntie Robyn Williams. I take great pride in what we as a community have achieved in our CBD. The Beenleigh Town Square has been a passionate project for all three tiers of government—local, state and federal—and for the community. The community has been involved every step of the way, commenting on and contributing to the design.

Prior to my election to parliament, for some time I worked on George Street in the heart of Beenleigh's CBD so I know firsthand how eager local businesses and residents were for the extensive facelift and we were all so happy when the day finally arrived. What we all wanted was a fresh and modern commercial hub where residents could go about their business and yet feel connected and really enjoy being part of our vibrant community. That is what this redevelopment has delivered. There is nothing more comforting for businesses looking to start up or for families looking for somewhere to live than a bustling and friendly main street complemented by an open and welcoming town square; a space where commerce can thrive and the community can gather for events and celebrations, because a community is so much more than just an economy.

One of Waterford's greatest strengths is its multiculturalism and we are a community of diverse and rich cultures. It is a place where traditional owners and Australia's most recent immigrants make their mark and the new square will host exciting multicultural festivals, concerts and events throughout the year, as well as regular open-air markets and, of course, the popular Eats & Beats, which people travel far and wide to attend. A well-planned town square such as this one allows everyone in the community to benefit: our small businesses, our community groups, our artists and entertainers, and our families from all backgrounds and generations.

This redevelopment was also the catalyst for the Queensland government to begin \$1.5 million worth of upgrades at the nearby Southern Districts Courthouse. I commend Mayor Parker, Councillor Jennie Breene and the energetic team at Logan City Council for their vision, determination and hard work in seeing this project through. I particularly thank Lawrie Dore and his colleagues at the Beenleigh Yatala Chamber of Commerce for their leadership on this project.

I thank everyone in Beenleigh for their patience during the redevelopment works. Congratulations to everyone involved in making our new town square a reality.