




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Morris, Mr D

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (1.36 am): I rise tonight to pay tribute to a man who has made a massive contribution to his community and his sport. Over the last 48 years Des Morris has been closely associated with the mighty East Tigers. Des moved from the Booval Swifts to join the team in 1968. While his career would, for a short time, take him to the Wynnum-Manly Seagulls as a player and coach, his heart would always belong to the Tigers. For the last 10 years Des has been the CEO of the football club and, sadly, this year announced his retirement. I never had the benefit of seeing Des's work on the field, but by all accounts it was impressive. He was successful as a player and coach at club and state levels. He continues today as a State of Origin selector and has made a huge contribution to the golden age of Queensland in the State of Origin.

Des also had a brief stint as a political candidate. While our views might be different, there is no doubt that Des would have made a significant contribution had he been elected. Like the best people who aspire to serve the community as a politician, Des Morris demonstrated that elected office is only one way to render service to the community. His contributions to our local community have been significant and will be lasting.

I have been attending games at Langlands since 1997. It has always been a great day out for the whole family, and I would encourage everyone to come along. Over that time I have got to know Des. While others will rightly laud Des for his on-field and off-field achievements, for me it is Des the person who supports the community who I really want to speak about. When I approached him to ask if we could arrange a fundraiser at a home game for our P&C, Des immediately said yes. He helped to organise the day, and when I arrived to set up Des gave me a hand to put up the marquee. He came back at half-time to make sure we were having a good time.

As we set up the marquee, Des told me about the State of Origin camp he had just left and his views on the capacity of his team to win on Wednesday night. It occurred to me that both things were important to Des—the pinnacle sporting event of his code and supporting the sport at the grassroots by encouraging community participation. It is said that Des has done every job at Easts. After a recent game, a friend and I were walking home after having a few beers in the club post match. An hour and a half after the final siren we bumped into Des in the car park, cleaning up and loading gear into storage. He stopped to have a quick chat about the game and thank us for coming.

This chance encounter reinforced for me the many great personal qualities that Des has instilled in the entire club. He works hard and he does every job to the best of his ability. No matter what he is doing, he carries himself with dignity. He is never too busy to be polite and treat people with respect. He celebrates success with humility and learns from the hard days. He makes everyone feel welcome and special at his club. He always finds time to have a yarn about the team and the sport that he loves. No doubt we will continue to see Des at games and at the club for many years to come. I want to thank him—and his family who have supported him—for the huge contribution he has made to our club and our community.