




Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### SEQ Stars

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.15 pm): I love to take my kids to the Logan Metro Sports Centre on Browns Plains Road to see the SEQ Stars women's basketball team, Logan's only national professional sports team. It is inspiring to weekly see Olympians up close. On 3 February, the Stars faced a crisis when it was announced that funding had collapsed and the team would not be able to complete the season. Their hopes of making the finals were dashed. It was not just a blow to basketball; it was a real blow to Logan. However, the Logan community rallied. Deputy Mayor Russell Lutton and others, including the members for Waterford, Woodridge, Springwood and I, were straight on the phones seeking to raise the funds needed and to put in pledges ourselves before the 5 pm deadline. Local fans and sponsors donated, and Griffith University made a significant contribution, joining Logan City and Basketball Queensland, to let the team play out the season.

However, that was not the end of the SEQ Stars' challenge. That weekend they had to compete in what *Jimboomba Times* journalist Joshua Paterson called the doomsday double: flying to Adelaide one day and on to Perth the next. Originally, the team was to fly to Adelaide on Thursday afternoon, but due to the drama about finances and funding they had to fly at 6 am Friday before the game. After just hours in the city, they played the highly competitive Adelaide Lightning. It seems the worry and bonding of the previous day had gelled the team. They played their hearts out, with import Jordan Hooper leading with 31 points in a 89-81 win over Adelaide. They then hopped on the plane to Perth, where they played the No. 1 ranked team, the Perth Lynx. With true Logan spirit, they beat them 87-71, with Opals star Bec Allen top scoring with 20 points.

After that gutsy away trip, my kids and I were lucky enough to catch the home game at Logan Metro Sports Centre against Canberra, which the Stars won 81-76. This Saturday the team plays the Melbourne team, before playing the No. 2 team, the Dandenong Rangers, on Sunday. If the Stars show the same Logan spirit and win those two games against the odds, there is a strong chance that they will have a home final and the Stars' home base at Logan Metro Sports Centre will be full to overflowing as people come to see a fairy tale comeback.

The Stars are representative of the people of the City of Logan. They might not have all the money they could want, but they make up for it with strong spirit, guts and determination against the odds. Rachel Jerry, a member of the Opals and a star of our team, said—

Imagine how special this would be after all the stuff we have gone through.

That is what is said by many Logan families who go through some struggles. When we make it through this together, it will be so special. Stars, we are inspired by you! Good luck this weekend and good luck in the finals.