




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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ADJOURNMENT

State of Origin

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.35 pm): Mr Speaker, there comes a time every year when football tragics go weak at the knees. State of Origin is a footy spectacular that pits mate against mate and state against state. Throughout my life I have had the privilege to see some fantastic games of footy from club level through to grand finals and representative games at state and national levels. However, in my view nothing comes close to the thrill and excitement of a State of Origin game. I am proud to be a Queenslander, but there is a particular pride around being a Queenslander when State of Origin time rolls around.

It is particularly spectacular when you have the opportunity to get to the 'Cauldron' and be part of the intense atmosphere at Lang Park. One of the roles that I am delighted to fulfil in this place is co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Rugby League with the member for Everton. Yesterday in this place we had the absolute honour of hosting the Queensland Maroons here at parliament. This event was a great success and was held on the Speaker's Green. It would not have been able to be facilitated without the great work of the QRL and NRL.

Here on the Speaker's Green we were able to have conversations about the role that players are fulfilling, the challenges and opportunities that come along with it and show our support for the squad as they head into the training camp on the Gold Coast. I want to thank them for the generosity that they displayed here at Queensland parliament. There were many requests, conversations, photos and autographs, with many Origin treasures that will now go back to clubs throughout our electorates. Many members took the opportunity to bring in school students to meet the superstars, and what an opportunity that would have been.

In terms of the line-up, as a Broncos tragic I am pleased to say that we have six players in the team: Darius Boyd, Corey Oates, Matt Gillett, Sam Thaiday, Corey Parker and Josh McGuire. The Cowboys, our hot rivals at the moment, had four: Justin O'Neill at debut, Johnathan Thurston, Matt Scott and Michael Morgan. The Storm came in with two, Cooper Cronk and Cameron Smith, our captain. Greg Inglis, Dane Gagai, Nate Myles, Aidan Guerra and Josh Papali also made the cut. I want to acknowledge the Treasurer and the Minister for Sport, who emceed the event, and the Queensland Premier, who now has a signed footy in pride of place on her mantle.

State of Origin is always a battle on the field. I want to place on the record my appreciation for the QRL and NRL, who go out of their way to facilitate our support as members in this place to get involved and active in our local clubs and support the game throughout the state. In particular, I want to thank Rob Moore and Peter Betros from the QRL; Todd Greenberg, the CEO of the NRL; and Arthur Eustace-Earle, who helps us no end. State of Origin is always a battle on the field and encapsulates and demonstrates the Queensland spirit and the 'never say die' attitude, where every second on the field counts. Go, Queensland!