




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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ADJOURNMENT

Kallangur Electorate; Kallangur Scouts

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (8.59 pm): This evening I rise to inform the House about a few recent events that have occurred in my electorate of Kallangur. A few weeks ago, I visited the home of some of my constituents to see firsthand the damage done in recent years to the riverbank on their property due to flood events and, in their belief, due to the rapid dropping of the river level or pulsing by the closure of the dam floodgates after water releases. I have arranged meetings with Seqwater and my constituents to curb this practice and will continue to advocate for them in this regard.

The visit had an unexpected benefit, as I was offered an opportunity I am not sure many have had. In the north Pine River, where these constituents live, there are lungfish. At this time of year, they are able to be handfed. I had the experience of several of these amazing and rather large creatures eating out of and resting their heads in my hands. I cannot describe how surreal that experience was and I will certainly be going back for another go.

Ms Grace: I want to come.

Mr KING: I am sure you would be welcome. I say thanks to Bob and Barbara Lamb for that opportunity.

Recently in my area we saw the culmination of a long campaign to find a new facility for our Kallangur Scouts. In 2014, Scouting Queensland pulled out of our local scout den in Hathi Park, Kallangur due to it being in a state of disrepair and relocated the scouts to another combined scouting den in Kurwongbah. At the time, I was the candidate for the seat of Kallangur. I made a commitment to get another den in the Kallangur area for the many concerned scouting families who contacted me from Kallangur, Murrumba Downs and neighbouring Griffin in the state seat of Murrumba. The Kurwongbah den has been broken into several times and vandalised. I have been helping to support them while they are there, all the time working with council on getting a new place back in Kallangur. As the member for Kallangur, I have been trying to find an appropriate location with a building in the area.

When a new location became available due to it being bought by council, I jumped at the opportunity and spoke to our mayor about its potential, as its proximity to bushland and the river seemed a perfect fit for scouts. Also nearby are military cadets, the SES and sporting fields. It has been quite a long process due to council elections and other issues. Sadly, the main building at the site had to be removed due to the major costs that would have been incurred by council to make the building comply with council's regulations for public buildings. However, there is a compliant outbuilding that is perfect for the scouts to start with, and the rest of the land can become a great community hub in the future. Scout leader Kerry Skillington and the Kallangur Scouts will move in in the near future and start to grow their numbers again.

Anything any of us in this place can do to help give kids in our areas something to do is a good thing. The scouting movement provides a great opportunity for kids to socialise and learn together. I take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to our mayor, Allan Sutherland, his staff and division 7 councillor Denise Simms for their support and advocacy for our local scouts.