




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Electorate, Seniors

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.09 pm): I rise to inform the House of initiatives in my electorate to link seniors with the community and ensure their voices are heard. While campaigning in Waterford, I heard from senior citizens that public transport in Logan had been neglected for too long and that their concerns were falling on deaf ears. This lack of investment or even cutbacks during the LNP era was of grave concern to my community, as many fear social isolation.

Investment in public transport and inclusion of the elderly in our community are two areas that go hand in hand. That is why recently I was proud to advise residents of Bethania that later this year an emergency vehicle crossing will be built at Bethania Railway Station. This crossing will mean that residents in Bethania can rest assured that in the event they need an emergency vehicle while the boom gates are down for an extended period due to an incident, emergency vehicles will be able to reach them. This is a huge relief to the residents in Bethania, a suburb that includes a high number of retirement and aged care villages. I am very glad I was successful in obtaining this crossing. I know from the calls and emails I have received that the elderly in my community are, as well.

In addition to fighting for better public transport for our seniors, I have also hosted other events to make sure that they feel included and connected. Late last year I hosted a seniors morning tea, also in Bethania. Besides the opportunity to chat and enjoy cakes and tea, my office arranged talks from the Office for Seniors and the local Logan police on how to feel safe in our community and not feel isolated. This Saturday, I will be hosting a manufactured homes act forum with Minister de Brenni. Many of the retirement and aged care villages in Waterford fall under the act. I have heard constantly from residents in those villages that they do not feel listened to by those who manage the villages. The forum will give seniors in our area the opportunity to talk directly to the minister responsible and, again, allow them to feel included and supported in our community. They will feel that their voices and opinions matter, because they do. I am looking forward to the forum on Saturday with the member for Springwood and for another chance to sit down and talk to the wonderful, passionate and inspiring seniors who call Waterford home.