



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Jeays, Mr L**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (6.58 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the loss of a true local hero in my electorate of Sandgate. Laurence Jeays passed away after a long battle with cancer at the Redcliffe Hospital Palliative Care Unit on the afternoon of Friday, 2 September, in the company of his wife and sister. The Jeays' name is a very storied one in Sandgate, but Laurie was the member of the clan with whom I had the most interaction. Laurie was a passionate community activist, driven by the values of community and conservation. Those values evolved through a life of achievement in construction, boat building, youth instruction, and his real first love, sailing. Those values are embodied in the Sandgate community and environment which he loved so dearly.

Laurie's legacy of local conservation includes the protection of the Deagon and Boondall wetlands. Laurie's passion for conservation was sparked by the proposal to develop the Deagon and Boondall wetlands after the Catholic Church land was sold to council. These remarkable wetlands, which span my electorate and those of the members for Nudgee and Clayfield, feature mangroves, grasslands, open forests and woodlands which support wildlife such as squirrel gliders, frogs, reptiles, sandpipers, kingfishers and rainbow bee-eaters. Laurie knew development on the wetlands would destroy its native ecosystem.

In the 1980s a proposed development of the wetlands ignited community and conservation uproar. Ken McEwan and Brian Hutchinson joined Laurie to form the Bramble Bay Consultative Committee in 1985. This committee fought to save the wetlands by successfully overturning a decision to dredge Cabbage Tree Creek in order to build a marina and high-rise foreshore buildings as well as blocking the frankly weird idea of a Bavarian style shopping centre at the Deagon Wetlands. As a result of Laurie's advocacy, the Boondall and Deagon wetlands were declared reserves in the early 1990s. Recently, former councillor for the Deagon ward and my current neighbour, Denise Herbert, remarked that Laurie was not a NIMBY but rather a man who always offered a solution. He never opposed something without an alternative, which brought him great respect from far and wide.

Laurie's outstanding community service continued for years thereafter. He worked with the Sandgate Historical Society and the Keep Sandgate Beautiful Association and, more recently, the Glider Alliance. Laurie was a founding member of the Einbunpin Festival committee in early the 1990s with Denise Herbert—a festival that is celebrated by thousands each year on Brisbane's north side, celebrating the unique character of the Sandgate community. He was also a board member of SANDBAG one of our vitally important community organisations.

A section of the foreshore park along Allpass Parade in Shorncliffe has been named Laurie Jeays Way. What a great dedication that is to him and his life. He fought tirelessly to preserve the Boondall Wetlands that we can see across Cabbage Tree Creek.

The community in my electorate is much the richer for Laurie's generous contributions and much poorer for his passing. Laurie is survived by his wife of almost 57 years, Margaret, and two daughters, Kyleigh and Tricia. I am sure that I speak on behalf of the Sandgate community in expressing our condolences to Laurie's family and friends. Vale Laurie Jeays.