



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2017

## ADJOURNMENT

### Jackway, Mr J

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (7.08 pm): I rise to share news of a very special event that occurred in Thuringowa just a few months ago. As most on this side of the House know, we are getting on with the job of delivering infrastructure projects in Thuringowa, such as Riverway Drive, the Kirwan State High School hall, the Kirwan Ambulance Station redevelopment and two housing projects, one of which was recently opened and about which I will speak tonight. We held a very special naming ceremony for the opening of that housing project. I take a moment to thank Minister de Brenni for his support of that naming ceremony and also for encouraging job growth. Those two housing projects employed 320 local tradies. One of those complexes is now complete and people have moved in. The other complex is near completion.

On 11 November 2009, a friend and work colleague to many in the Queensland Ambulance Service, Mr Jamie Jackway, an advanced care paramedic, was being winched on to a merchant ship in the ocean off Horn Island when the worst happened: the winch cable snapped and Jamie fell 50 feet onto the steel deck. He received multiple injuries, rendering him a quadriplegic. Since 2003 Jamie had been employed as a paramedic, based in Townsville. He transferred to Thursday Island with his wife, Melinee, and their three children. For some time after his accident, Jamie went through significant rehabilitation at the PA Hospital in Brisbane. His colleagues from across the state raised significant funds to build a special-purpose home for Jamie at Kelso in Thuringowa. Also playing an important role in Jamie's story are the unions. United Voice is the union that looks after ambulance officers. I note that the TWU also played a significant role, as did the QNMU and the Queensland police officers' union.

At Thuringowa Drive, as Jamie's special-purpose house was being built, another 12 units were built to assist those with a disability to gain access to public housing. After his injury, Jamie was put in public housing as he waited for his house to be built. At the naming ceremony for the unit complex, it was really pleasing to have present the Commissioner of the Ambulance Service, Russell Bowles, members of the community, paramedics and Brigadier Chris Field. Prior to joining the QAS, Jamie had worked as an Army medic and had deployed to Timor. It was a very special occasion, because in the 125-year history of the Queensland Ambulance Service, which we are celebrating this year, Jamie is the first paramedic to have an infrastructure building named after him. We celebrated that great achievement. It is a legacy for Jamie in recognition of the work he has done in the community, serving Queensland and the nation.