




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Smith, Mr C

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.27 pm): In 20 days time Queensland will go into battle in a foreign land—Victoria. The mighty Maroons State of Origin side will line up against the New South Wales Blues for the first State of Origin game for 2018, which will be played at the MCG, and this week we learnt that they will do so without their captain, one of the greatest Rugby League players in living memory and one of the city of Logan's favourite sons—Cameron Smith, who has announced his retirement from representative football. A product of the mighty Logan Brothers Rugby League Club, Cameron Smith is one of the greatest big-match players the game has ever seen and he grew up in the electorate of Woodridge, where his parents still live today.

I know there has been some conjecture in recent days about which Rugby League player should be immortalised in bronze outside the Cauldron. I know that some of my colleagues' Rugby League allegiances may lie with Ipswich's favourite son—the 'Little General' Alfie Langer—and my colleagues from North Queensland will no doubt be beating the drum for the great Johnathon Thurston to be honoured in this way. However, when they compare their fine efforts to Cameron Smith's list of representative achievements in the greatest game of all, all members of the House will undoubtedly agree that Cameron Smith's achievements are unsurpassed.

Cameron Smith played a record 42 Origin games for Queensland with a record 26 wins. He played 21 games as captain, third behind 'The King' Wally Lewis on 30 and Darren Lockyer, just one ahead, on 22. He was man of the match seven times in Origin games and was responsible for an incredible 1,566 tackles in Origin football—a staggering 700 more than second placed Gary Larson. Cameron Smith also played the second highest number of tests for Australia—56 tests, with the Kangaroos coming away victorious in 49 of those 56 tests.

Cameron Smith is a Rugby League genius. He has won two premierships with the Melbourne Storm and two world cups with the Kangaroos and it is for these reasons that it gives me great pleasure as the member for Woodridge to announce that I have launched a petition today calling for the installation of a statue of Rugby League great Cameron Smith at Suncorp Stadium, and I thank the members representing Townsville because I know they will support this petition. As the Premier said on Tuesday morning in this House, she is keen to hear from Queenslanders about immortalising Queensland Origin greats, so tonight I want to take this opportunity to urge all citizens of the electorate of Woodridge, the city of Logan and the state of Queensland—in fact, anyone with Maroon blood running through their veins—to sign the petition to ensure that the Rugby League achievements of Cameron Smith can be immortalised forever in a statue at the Cauldron.