



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Greater Springfield

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.03 pm): On 12 July this year a book was launched. This was no ordinary book but a story of vision, persistence and the belief that you can deliver against the odds. I was honoured as the local state member to be at the Queensland State Library along with approximately 250 invited guests for the official launch of *Greater Springfield: Australia's Newest City*, co-authored by Madonna King and David Fagan. The book, which was officially launched by the Prime Minister, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull—he was Prime Minister the last time I checked—and Queensland Minister for State Development, Hon. Cameron Dick, reflects the journey of Greater Springfield over the past 25 years. What a journey it has been.

As the founders, Maha Sinnathamby and Bob Sharpless, say in the opening note, 'when you manage to take control of a 2,860-hectare single parcel of land so close to a major capital city, you realise that you have landed the opportunity of a lifetime'. It also compelled the founders to think boldly and do something completely unique. Demographer Bernard Salt, who provided the foreword for the book, writes that 'delivering a seamless, integrated community and town centre to the edge of the existing urban fabric takes time, money and above all the ability to convince others that the dream, the vision, is worthwhile'.

We know that to achieve this vision infrastructure must be extended, planning matters must be resolved and investors need to see a return, but mostly the community needs to be engaged and supportive. The launch event highlighted this in the most visual way. In amongst the many politicians of both persuasions—federal, state and local—the senior bureaucrats and the development partners, there were the local faces, those people who call Greater Springfield home.

Within the pages of the book, it is the interviews with many of the aspirational people who now live or work within Greater Springfield who capture the spirit of the place—people like Dr Stuart Philip, who became a resident and the first surgeon to perform an operation at the Mater Private Hospital Springfield; Principal Michelle Campbell, who oversees the Hymba Yumba independent school, supporting young Indigenous students within the region; local priest Father Mauro, who has overseen the construction of a beautiful new church and growing parish, Our Lady of the Southern Cross; and Jeanine Buchanan, who has been president, secretary and community officer for the Lions Club of Greater Springfield. These are just some of the characters in the stories captured within the book, and it is their stories and those of countless others that have strengthened the resolve of the founders and my resolve to see Greater Springfield continue to chase its limitless potential.

There is a line in the book that 'the difference between those who merely dream and those who actually deliver isn't all that glamorous'. What *Greater Springfield: Australia's Newest City* shows is that delivering on that dream involves hard work and persistence over years and even decades—for Greater Springfield 25 years to be precise, yet the journey has really just begun.