




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): This evening I rise to place on the record my congratulations to the athletes from Ninderry and the Sunshine Coast who represented our region, state and country at the recent Commonwealth Games. A record 37 athletes from across the coast represented us with pride and distinction. In fact, if the Sunshine Coast competed as a separate entity we would have come 13th in the overall medal tally, with five gold, five silver and five bronze medals. I acknowledge our local sporting clubs and schools and the coaches who have played a part in the development of the athletes and, importantly, their parents who have no doubt made considerable personal and financial sacrifices to help their kids to follow their dreams and reach their potential. I also acknowledge the ongoing work of the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation and its president, former Olympic boxer Benny Pike. Since its inception 50 years ago that not-for-profit volunteer organisation has helped raise over \$2 million, which has been reinvested in our local athletes and sporting clubs.

At the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, a total of five Sunshine Coast athletes competed. In 2006 in Melbourne we had eight athletes and in 2010 we had nine athletes. In 2014 in Glasgow, our team of 13 athletes, consisting of 11 women, brought home seven gold medals. As I said earlier, at the most recent Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, a team of 37 athletes represented our region.

In particular, I mention former Bli Bli State School student Ashley Fey, who won a silver medal with the Hockeyroos. Bli Bli, in my electorate, is important because it was the home of Queensland's first-ever Commonwealth Games athlete, Jim Achurch, who won a gold medal in the javelin at the 1954 Commonwealth Games in Vancouver. Old newspapers clippings from 1954 talk about the local community uniting to help raise money to send Mr Achurch to Canada. Sixty-four years later, our local community, led by the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation, is still rallying around our athletes to support them in their sporting endeavours. The Sunshine Coast has come a long way since 1954. Again I thank all the athletes, their support teams, their families and the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation for all the work they do to help our local athletes reach their full potential.