



Speech By  
**Linus Power**


**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Logan Electorate, Education

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.22 am): The mention of the men's shed by the member for Mermaid Beach reminds me of a speech that I heard earlier this week given to a bipartisan group of MPs by the ABC's Scott Stevens. He spoke of the need for the community—much as the member for Mermaid Beach—to be the centre of our political discussion. He spoke of the origin of the word community—'communis', which means 'in common, public, general, shared by the many'. It has come to mean all that we hold in common together. This is not limited to physical things like the village common but extends to the values and ideas we hold. As members of parliament, how much do we do to create a stronger sense of the values we hold, the ideas we share and the space we share in common?

Reflecting on these ideas this week, I refer to the teaching profession in which I was trained. It is our education system that creates the greatest common ground in which all Queenslanders participate, share and build together. We are not individuals on an individualistic journey of self-improvement; we are instead together sharing by all or the many the journey of sharing the knowledge and values of our community. However, some come to this common ground without the tools they need to fully participate in this common experience. We know that some have greater needs; for example, they have fewer language skills. Some students need more to access the common ground of Queensland schools.

Gonski is all about ensuring that every school community and each student seeking to be part of that community has the facilities and great teachers they need. As new communities are forming in Logan, the new schools that are built will be the bedrock of those communities. That is why I am proud to fight for new schools and classrooms for Logan. This year we opened the new Yarrabilba State School, and so strong is the demand for students that we are already building the second stage of that school. This budget will also fund the new Yarrabilba high school, which will bring together the communities of Logan Village, Stockleigh and Yarrabilba into the world-class high school common learning environment. We are also building a health and community hub on state school grounds, again to build a common health standard and to keep everyone together. In this budget we are also funding a neighbourhood centre, again bringing community together.

Scott Stevens of the ABC urged us all to put the common ground in all we do, to build a common experience, a common equal access to our society. Reflecting on these ideas, we can do more. We are truly trying to make the development of Yarrabilba into something more: a true community.