



Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**


**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 October 2018

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Macalister Electorate, Beenleigh**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.52 pm): As a member representing a new electorate with an eponymous name, I spend a bit of time having to explain where Macalister is in Queensland. I tell most people that I am probably better known as the member for Beenleigh, and it is Beenleigh that I stand up and advocate for here today. In my first speech in this House I spoke about the potential the future holds for my electorate.

I was pleased to attend the Logan City Council Destination Logan launch last week. Logan is a proactive council looking to capitalise on its key location between Brisbane and the Gold Coast to drive and increase its tourism dollars. It was a fantastic event held at the newly refurbished Beenleigh artisan rum distillery, Australia's oldest functioning distillery. Next door to the distillery we see the work being done to reclaim the derelict DFO buildings along the banks of the Albert River. Zarraffa's is in the first stage of transforming what has been an eyesore on the side of the M1 into a vibrant foodie epicentre. I look forward to working with not only Kenton Campbell and his team but also the Logan City Council to realise this ambition.

While we talked up Beenleigh's future, last month Beenleigh's history was in sharp focus. In September each year the Beenleigh Show Society hosts the annual Beenleigh Show. While it is no longer the three-day event of days gone by, it is still the largest event in Beenleigh each year. In 2018 the Beenleigh Show had 6,000 people through its gates that day, with over 600 exhibitors showing everything from needlework to woodworking as well as produce and agricultural exhibitors. I would like to acknowledge the work of the show society, particularly Annette and Lionel Mundt, and the over 100 volunteers who make it possible each year.

The Beenleigh Show Society is the longest running show in Queensland, having been a local institution since the first show in 1871. Apart from the war years, it has run every year without fail. The Palaszczuk Labor government supports these local institutions and in 2018 provided over \$24,000 in funding to keep the show going. Our society may change and our kids may find new ways of entertaining themselves, but there is nothing quite like a day at the show—the sights, the sounds, the rides, the various meat and other things on a stick and the main ring entertainment, not forgetting the fireworks to top it off. These events are central tenets, even to old country towns now becoming outer urban centres.

In Beenleigh we acknowledge our history. We have one of the few remaining functioning historical villages in South-East Queensland. We are proud of that. The Beenleigh Historical Village is now home to the Beenleigh time capsule. Originally interred in 1964, it was dug up as part of the Beenleigh 150 celebrations and nearby upgrades to the Beenleigh Aquatic Centre thanks to support from the

Palaszczuk Labor government to the tune of \$1.5 million. Because the capsule was originally sealed by the then Governor of Queensland, approval was sought from our current Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey, who was on hand last month as it was reinterred at the Beenleigh Historical Village as part of the inaugural Beenleigh Heritage Day. I can only hope that I may be there when it is dug up again in 2064. Fingers crossed!