



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 March 2018

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Bonney Electorate**

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.13 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about Labrador, a proud suburb of the Gold Coast that I am honoured to represent. The name was inspired by Scottish engineer Robert Muir who sailed around the Labrador Peninsula off the Canadian coast on a voyage to the United States. Our beautiful Broadwater clearly reminded him of the small islands and estuary nature of that passage. Traditionally home to the Yugambah people, the Loders were likely the first European family to settle in the area in 1869. I am glad to say that the street I live on is named after them. These days, Labrador is a place that is diverse and rich with culture with over 40 per cent of residents born overseas.

My office is there at 102 Imperial Parade and I encourage anyone to come in for a cup of tea or, if it is after work hours on a Friday afternoon, maybe even a quiet beer. I know a thing or two about serving a beer to many of the fantastic locals in our area. During the campaign and before I worked at the Labrador AFL Sports Club, home of the mighty Tigers who I am sure will bring home the QAFL cup this year. I would like to pay tribute to a few people there: the manager, Dean Tindale, Brett Mitchell, Jenita, Jess, Pam, Tamara, Gail, Maxi, Grant, Gowan, Sue, Deeksy, Yenschky, Olly, Shannon, Niall and even Graham, although I doubt I will ever shift him from voting for the Greens.

We have a thriving cafe scene and, due to their close proximity to our office, my staff and I often visit Ben and Mickey at Thaiger on Turpin Road and Rob and Chee at Mr Brown's Tuckshop on Brown Street. I will also give a shout-out to the twins and Marty at Frigg on Frank Street and 360 at the Grand. In fact, I am so proud of the Grand Hotel that I had a local artist bring to life an old photograph of the original building as it was a century ago, which proudly hangs in my office.

With the Commonwealth Games just 13 days away our community can now boast the magnificent Gold Coast Hockey Centre. There are not many clubs who focus on their juniors like the Tigerstix do and that gives me great confidence that this facility will be an asset to our area for many decades to come. In spite of that, we have many challenges: Labrador has nearly double to triple the crime rate of neighbouring suburbs; the unemployment rate is considerably higher than the Queensland average at over 10 percent; I want to see a Police Beat for Labrador; and I am doing all I can to support local schools and increase the opportunities for our locals.

I am humbled to have achieved the best ever primary vote for an LNP member at the Labrador booth at nearly 41 per cent. It was, in fact a 10-point increase on the previous election. I am grateful for this endorsement and I vow to continue to fight for the people I am proud to represent.