




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

Record of Proceedings, 20 September 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Bonney Electorate

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.38 pm): I want to spend my time today fitting in as many shout-outs as possible to the incredible people across our community in Queensland's best electorate. I got to be part of Coombabah State High School's upskilling program last week, run by Synthia—one of the teachers at the school and a former school captain. She set up the program to help develop the leadership skills of year 11 kids who are putting their hand up for positions next year. They had some great questions and I wish them all the best.

I have been part of a number of special moments this year at the Parkwood Sharks Rugby League Club. Last night they gave me the honour of making me their patron. I would like to mention one coach there in particular, Steve Johnston. He goes above and beyond and is a huge character around the club. He has had his team help out at a homeless feed and at our community garden for a working bee and he has helped run a mental health awareness day at the club.

Over the weekend I also had the great honour of being emcee for the Gold Coast Relay for Life. It was a very moving day that raised thousands of dollars for the fight against cancer. Well done to the entire committee for their voluntary work.

We have also had a few great sporting wins over the last few weeks in our area. The mighty Southport Sharks won the NEAFL grand final against the Sydney Swans. It is their first premiership in a decade and the first time they have won the NEAFL. The Musgrave Mustangs Soccer Club won six of six grand finals they played in last weekend. On Friday night I worked in the bar at the Labrador Hockey Club juniors' presentation night. As a club it won six grand finals as well over the last season, including one result that saw two Labrador teams battle it out.

I was at the Arundel State School P&C meeting last week, led by their fantastic president, Katie, and I was pleased to hear how their NAPLAN results have improved dramatically over the last decade. This is a credit to the school and its teachers who have been working tirelessly with their students to achieve this outcome. I also got to see firsthand the work Radio Lollipop do for sick kids at the Gold Coast University Hospital. They run an internal radio service taking song requests for the kids ward. They also go around bringing much needed respite from the trauma of a hospital stay for kids and their parents. They are celebrating Radio Lollipop day next month and will get to broadcast their station to the whole hospital.

Finally, I would like to thank the hundreds of people who have signed my petition calling for late-night tram services to run on the second stage of the light rail as they do for the rest of the line.