



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**


**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Cougars Weightlifting Club

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.01 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the success of yet another topnotch sporting club in the great electorate of Chatsworth. As a sporting tragic, it brings me great joy to have a world-class facility such as the Sleeman Sports Complex a mere five-minute drive from my office. In supporting the many sporting clubs that compete and operate within this facility, it is always a thrill to visit the Cougars Weightlifting Club.

The Cougars Weightlifting Club provides competitors and members with the biggest and best equipped weightlifting facility in Australia. Over the years I have visited the Cougars Weightlifting Club on several occasions and one aspect that never fails to impress me is the way in which young boys and girls are encouraged by the senior members. In fact, it is not unusual to see international competitors teaching and encouraging new members.

The club is extremely inclusionary in that it encourages people of all ages. It is extraordinary. It is home to 100 regular training members, including representatives who have competed for Australia at Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. Speaking of those representatives, it would be remiss of me to not pay tribute to the outstanding work of Damon Kelly, our Commonwealth Games gold medal winner in Delhi in 2006. I would like to say a special thankyou to him for taking the time to speak at my business breakfast earlier this year and continuing to be an inspirational member of this wonderful club.

Recently, I was lucky enough to be invited by the club to present medals at the Australian national weightlifting championships. In the past, I have watched the competitors in the super heavyweight category, but it was such a thrilling experience to watch the competition in the 55-kilogram, 61-kilogram and 67-kilogram weight divisions. During their lifts, every competitor put their body on the line and it put a smile on my face to see their reactions when they put down the heavy bar and those three white lights appeared to indicate an allowed lift. It is safe to say that this event was jam packed with excitement and it did not disappoint the spectators.

I must congratulate all the officials and organisers for what was a seamless event. In particular, I want to make special mention of the club president and competitor himself, Mr James Norman. This man is an incredible advocate for the club. He goes out of his way to ensure that the club continues to grow and expand. A prime example of his efforts occurred earlier this year when Mr Norman raised his concerns about the future of the club as it had been located underneath the old velodrome facility for more than 30 years. Mr Norman wanted to ensure that there are no future construction plans for the old velodrome before investing in renovations to improve the club's facilities. I have been contacting the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni MP, and look forward to hearing from him about the plans for this facility so that the mighty Cougars Weightlifting Club can plan with some degree of certainty.