




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.09 pm): The year 2018 had a pretty rough end for many in Central Queensland and 2019 has had a really tough start for those in North Queensland. On behalf of my community, I say to communities throughout Queensland that our thoughts are with you as you go through the recovery process.

The year 2018 also had a tough ending for one of our Redlands families. We lost beautiful little Tom Beattie, who was taken at the age of eight years by the insidious disease that is brain cancer. Last year, our community did a lot of work to fundraise for brain cancer. Our high schools and primary schools all came together to work for the cause. To Andrew, who was vice principal at Victoria Point State School, Trish, Shannah, Owen and all of their family and friends, I offer my sincere condolences and the condolences of all of our community on the loss of Tom. He touched many people.

In exciting news, at the end of November governing from the Redlands provided a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our spectacular region. I thank Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and the entire cabinet for governing from our beautiful region. Unfortunately, we had to scale back some events and activities due to the bushfires.

In our area, Minjerribah or North Stradbroke Island was impacted by bushfires. I congratulate the Premier and Minister Crawford for their leadership throughout all recent devastating events across Queensland. During the bushfires on North Stradbroke Island, the Indigenous rangers did a fantastic job in terms of their guidance and stewardship. Their knowledge of the land and custodianship helped to make sure that we managed the bushfires in a way that protected our communities, aided by the Rural Fire Brigade and Redlands SES units, which are currently in Townsville helping out. They all did a fantastic job during the emergency events of late last year. Our QAS and local ambulance committees were fantastic in terms of sharing their knowledge and making sure that our communities had planned and were prepared and ready for the worst case.

During governing from the regions, Minister Miles visited the Redland Hospital. We announced our plan for the hospital car park, which will be critical to future upgrades of the hospital. We also looked at the sites where emergency and maternity ward upgrades are about to get underway.

With the Premier and Minister Bailey, we announced that the state government will fund free inter-island ferries for my communities on the Southern Moreton Bay islands, which do it tough. That was really fantastic news. We visited the Anita Street intersection on Cleveland Redland Bay Road. I am really excited that that work is happening for us.

Minister Fentiman worked with our small businesses, which was great. On the domestic and family violence front, we did some really great work around crisis accommodation. We had a really fantastic time governing from the Redlands.

(Time expired)