




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Operation Energise; Port of Townsville

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.11 pm): This week we saw the kick-off of Energy Queensland's annual electricity safety campaign, this year themed Safety Heroes. Thousands of Queensland primary school children will get to know Look Up Lucy and Electro Ethan. These safety super heroes will teach practical lessons about the safe use of appliances and fallen powerlines to name just a few. What a great initiative.

I want to talk about some other electrical super heroes and that is the team from Operation Energise, an ETU initiative that mobilises every time Queensland experiences natural disasters, just like we saw earlier this year here in Townsville with the floods. Last week at Parliament House my good friends, the member for Kurwongbah, Shane King, and Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni, and I had the opportunity to come together with the Operation Energise team to offer them our most heartfelt thanks for their work in Townsville during the floods—as I know you would, Mr Speaker, along with the members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra.

This team of volunteer electricians and Electrogroupp apprentices worked tirelessly to reconnect power to some of the most vulnerable in our community, as well as to a number of community and sports facilities. In addition to the support of the ETU, Energy Super provided the trailer. Powerlink, Energex and Ergon were also fantastic supporters of the project. This year Mates in Construction also joined the team in Townsville to assist with the mental health wellness, not only of the Energise team but for Townsvillians alike. That was a fantastic effort. A big shout out to Keith 'Macca' McKenzie for all the work he does in bringing Operation Energise to life when Queenslanders need it most.

Out in the Redlands some call me Captain Kim because they know how much I love our waterways and particularly warring on wrecks. It was wonderful earlier this week to meet a whole range of boating and maritime industry stakeholders at the Port of Townsville to give an update on the War on Wrecks task force, particularly the good work with wreck removals here in Townsville. I joined Minister Bailey who I know also loves warring on wrecks.

While out at the port I also had the opportunity to visit Kevin and his team at Pacific Marine Group. They are just one of the local Townsville salvage contractors benefiting from the focus of our government on wrecks and our waterways. They employ over 150 staff and are working on such a variety of marine projects, from our War on Wrecks salvaging through to our government's investment in the Museum of Underwater Art across the coast of North Queensland, as we heard earlier from the minister. This is an exciting project for tourism, with four locations—the Strand, Palm Island, the John Brewer Reef and just across the waters at Magnetic Island.

When it comes to investment in this region and right across Queensland—whether it be the Townsville port and our shipping and maritime industries or in tourism through projects like the museum and the Townsville stadium—we all know that it is only a Palaszczuk Labor government that will invest in North Queensland and Queensland more broadly to grow jobs and ensure a prosperous future for Townsvillians and all Queenslanders.