




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Southern Moreton Bay Islands

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.06 pm): Our islands are always a hive of activities and a strong community in the Redlands. It has been no different over the last few weeks. We had a small business forum hosted by Minister Fentiman. We had a fantastic turnout. Over 70 people attended the forum, talking about the opportunities to grow small business and looking at how we economically transition those islands in the tourism space.

We have some fantastic businesses that have just started. The Redlands Coast Lifestyle group is amazing. There is Gerard and the *Friendly Bay Islander*—what a great job he does in bringing our business community together. We had a lot of issues that came out of that. As a result, this afternoon I have met with Mayor Karen Williams and the minister to look at forming a Southern Moreton Bay Islands small business strategy. That is really exciting news for our island community.

Some of the other issues are in the federal space. There is nothing new there though, as we all know. Connectivity is a huge issue. There are still mobile blackspots. After two federal election cycle campaigns with promise after promise after promise, there is still no delivery. We need to have mobile communications and good internet connectivity to make sure that our small businesses thrive on the islands.

We had the SMBI CULT-ure map, which was courtesy of the funding from Minister Enoch's arts grants program. They put together an amazing grants program. We had a sunset social on Karragarra Island to launch the publication. It was a fantastic afternoon—again, a really strong community out enjoying our beautiful waters on the bay. It was a fantastic night that showcased all of the art and culture that exists across our islands.

There have been two breast cancer fundraisers—one on Russell Island and one on Macleay Island. The Russell Island fundraiser was another fashion parade op shop. I am wearing another great bargain from another fantastic op shop—a \$15 Easton Pearson jacket. You cannot beat that! They raised over \$8,000 on that day for breast cancer. Macleay Island had a ladies golf club day that was put together by Zan Howe—again, another terrific job raising a whole lot of money. I also thank Rhonda and Kay from Russell Island for putting together the fashion parade. It was fantastic.

Minister Miles came out to the Redland Hospital. We also met with our Macleay Island Local Ambulance Committee. I am really pleased to say that, as a result of that visit, Macleay Island is getting additional paramedic resources. This is fantastic for our islands in terms of making sure that we provide the services that are needed most. Two new police officers started three weeks ago on Russell Island. You cannot get any better than that. We are delivering in spades for our island community.

Mr Harper: Our government is delivering jobs.

Ms RICHARDS: Absolutely. You cannot beat that. Our islanders are thrilled with all of the work that the Palaszczuk government is doing across our islands. I also give a shout-out to Coochiemudlo Island. The Coochiemudlo Artisan Collective exhibition they had was fantastic. On opening night I got

to see firsthand how our first responders respond to accidents. We had a young girl faint and pass out, but we did not realise that that is what happened. They were on the island within five minutes taking care of that young lady. It has been a fantastic effort across our islands.

(Time expired)