



Speech By Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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ADJOURNMENT

Redlands Electorate

Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (7.09 pm): The Redlands coast has more islands than just Minjerribah. We have our beautiful southern Moreton Bay islands. Last week I had the opportunity to be briefed on the new ferry terminal upgrades. The Palaszczuk government is delivering \$34.1 million of ferry terminals with Redland City Council. We are working in partnership to upgrade and open up gateways and opportunities for those who want to come and visit our islands. They are spectacular. The designs were terrific. We had in the architects and the engineers giving us this briefing. So far, the feedback from our communities has been terrific as well. They are very excited. The Russell Island jetty will be first underway, and its existing jetty infrastructure will be retained for recreational boating, fishing and all the things that people love coming to our islands to do. That is really fantastic news. That will be great for passengers, too, and for the close to 10,000 people who live across those islands.

Also last week I had the pleasure of joining with Minister Ryan. Two new police officers for Russell Island started three weeks ago, and last week we had the commissioning ceremony for our beautiful new barge and jet boat. It was a really lovely and fitting tribute. The jet boat has been named after fallen officer Sondra Lena and the barge after fallen officer Stewart Kerlin. It was a terrific event and it was lovely to talk to Sondra's mum, Sandy. Sondra's locket is on display inside that barge. It is terrific.

A week and a half ago Mental Health Week was celebrated on the islands. Our BIMSARA guys put together a fantastic day on Russell Island. Heaps of people came out. There was a great sausage sizzle and great performances, kids were playing sport—all of those things we need to do to make sure our people have better mental health. I also give a shout-out to Ken Meldrum. He was instrumental in arranging a whole range of events across Redlands.

AITC, our trade college, held their employer night. It was great to be out there to talk about all of the great work our Palaszczuk government is doing in delivering free apprenticeship and traineeship costs to employers. The feedback there was fantastic. Employers know that they will be able to put on more apprentices and trainees. This is great work from our government, delivering jobs in our community. Principal Toni and the team are also doing a fantastic job.

We are heading into the end of the school year. Christmas is fast approaching. Santa is not that far away. I know that everybody in this chamber has a lot of graduation ceremonies coming up. It is World Teachers Day. I give a massive shout-out to all of my teachers. As all of our year 12s are getting ready to finish this year, I remind them about the free TAFE opportunity—another initiative of the Palaszczuk government. This government is absolutely 100 per cent focused on delivering jobs for people in our communities. You really could not ask for more effort in that space. I know that our young people and our employers are grateful.

(Time expired)