




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Redlands Electorate

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.33 pm): In my maiden speech I said that economic diversity was the key to prosperity in the Redlands and it is fantastic to see one of the new regional jobs committees established in my area. I had the pleasure of listening to Debra Baxter, who is heading it up from the Queensland government side, present to our chamber of commerce two weeks ago. At the same time she is working with our new chamber of commerce president Rebecca Young, and I congratulate her. I attended the business and retail awards on Saturday night—a fantastic night for all—with an Indigenous theme around Quandamooka country. It was just wonderful. They are certainly working hard with me and with the new jobs committee to make sure that we position our community for a prosperous future.

I also want to give a shout-out to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Chamber of Commerce which has its AGM tomorrow night. It is really getting itself back up and running. Jasmine Person has done some great work in doing the rebranding to get some interest back into those islands in terms of creating opportunity for business on the islands.

Our Redlands research centre has been at the heart of opportunity, looking forward into the future as well as looking back into history on what the Redlands has been strong on. At the moment we have talked a lot about the hydrogen future in Townsville which you are well aware of, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, and Townsville had its meeting last week. We also had a round table in the Redlands. It was fantastic to hear from Professor Ian Mackinnon. Sumitomo was in attendance, as were a range of other stakeholders that are interested in hydrogen.

As members would know, Redlands has the proud position of being the first to export the first piece of hydrogen from Queensland to Japan. We had a great conversation and there are some real opportunities for the Redlands to kick some goals. We are a region of islands, and SeaLink was at the table. It has some new boats in design at the moment and is absolutely focused on looking at how we can use hydrogen to take forward that opportunity in what we do day to day in terms of getting in and off our ferries. That is fantastic. There were also discussions on how we could use our islands to trial potentially putting hydrogen into the grid, so this is all very interesting. We also need to work with our TAFE to look at the skills and training needed in the renewables future, particularly in hydrogen.

Last month RACQ established its new facility, RACQ Mobility Centre of Excellence, in my region. That involves research, innovation, driver training and testing of autonomous technologies. It is a living lab. It will test and commercialise smart mobility technology and its mainstream transition. We are a place that will help the transition in this regard into a very large scale. Earlier this week on Karragarra Island we had the first autonomous vehicle operating in Queensland. If members have not been to Karragarra Island—

Mr Power interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: If members have not been to the southern Moreton Bay islands, I would strongly encourage members to come out and check out this new autonomous vehicle and everything that our beautiful Redlands coast has to offer.