




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Petersen, Mr D

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.50 pm): It has been a tough week of reflection in Logan Village and Yarrabilba. I have been reflecting on some of the services in those areas—the Yarrabilba Sport and Community Hub, the road upgrade between Logan Village and Yarrabilba and the North Street intersection upgrade. If I connected all of those things into one common thread, it would be the advocacy and passion of former Councillor Don Petersen. I am sad to say that Councillor Petersen died last week. For many years Don struggled with depression and his loss is keenly felt by the Logan community. I know that his wife, Nola, and his children will be devastated. I am joining them to mark and celebrate Don's life tomorrow.

Don was a true community person—a community champion. Even before he became a councillor he was strongly involved in the community. He said it well when he said the community 'is my passion and has become my work'. For Don, service to the community was his vocation. He served 14 years on the Beaudesert shire council and returned to the Logan council after most of the area that he represented was amalgamated into Logan City Council in 2012.

Don worked with the community to bring community banking to Logan Village, serving as the vice-president. He served as the president of the Logan Village Falcons soccer club, Clean Up Australia Day and so many other community activities. Don was determined, pushing me on improving bus services after the LNP cut the requirement for buses for Yarrabilba, building a sports clubhouse for Yarrabilba, fixing the intersections on Waterford-Tamborine Road and many other issues. He simply would not let me off the hook on these or any other issue. Don was always thoughtfully getting all the required information, building a case for action and then simply never letting up.

Don always wanted to be available to the public. Most Sundays he would sit outside the bakery in Logan Village at his little table, a notebook in hand. I would get a coffee or a sausage roll and, if he was not with someone else, I would ask his advice, share information, or simply chat to him. I last saw him when we were rostered together at the Logan Village pub to sell tickets for the Logan Village State School meat tray raffle. I held the tray and he sold the tickets, greeting so many patrons as old friends, which they were. Afterwards we sat together just chatting about the local area. Don had a great manner. He was quiet, reflective but determined about the issues that mattered to the community.

I will miss Don. After the service, I am going to go back to the Logan Village bakery and sit outside and think of him. I can picture him there quietly and steadily helping the community that he loved so much. We will miss Don. We all know that this job can be a little bit lonely, especially as we sometimes get criticism that is deserved or undeserved. I urge all members to, if they feel depressed, reach out to beyondblue or ring Lifeline on 131114, or reach out to their colleagues to ask, 'Are you okay?'