




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Food Connect

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.46 pm): During Queensland Small Business Week at the parliamentary reception held by Minister Fentiman on 15 May I was introduced to Camilla Tulley by Fiona from Avid Reader. Fiona has the best bookstore in West End. It is a bookstore that I often visit. During my introduction to Camilla I became aware of a crowdfunding campaign for the purchase of the warehouse in Salisbury from which Food Connect operates. I had been aware of Food Connect for some time, having previously visited the shed at its opening. I have vivid memories of the craft beer stand and enjoying the cold ales that were on display at the shed.

During my conversation with Camilla at the function I was again invited to visit the shed and be reminded of the great work that takes place at this food hub, so I took the opportunity to again visit Food Connect at 8 Textile Crescent, Salisbury. Food Connect is run by the community for the community. During my recent visit I again saw the work that occurs to bring fresh produce from farms to the city. The warehouse is a community hub that connects fresh local farm produce with the city. The community is provided with fresh produce in a sustained, secure way, reducing travel times from the farm gate to the family table. Produce is packaged for wholesalers so they can also avail themselves of safe fresh food produce that is in season and has not had to travel thousands of kilometres to get to the consumer.

The hub packages the fresh produce for individual orders or for larger wholesale orders. As stated by Emma-Kate, one of the co-founders of Food Connect, on Food Connect's web page, 'Local food is the way of the future—connecting farmers to consumers in close proximity to reduce the effects of climate change and to improve prices for farmers and provide good quality affordable food for the community.' Some months ago Emma-Kate Rose and her partner in life, Robert Pekin, decided to buy the warehouse that Food Connect operates from. Their goal was to raise \$2 million by way of an equity crowdfunding campaign, and that is exactly what they did.