



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Demons

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.33 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering for Waterford. Over the weekend I joined one of the largest Rugby League clubs in Logan, the Waterford Demons, at their annual trophy day. I give a particular shout-out to the under-14 and under-16 girls and the under-14 boys for their premierships wins. They are kicking goals, growing rapidly over the past few years. They already have over 700 registered players. This day was very special because it was an opportunity for me to announce that the Palaszczuk government has committed half a million dollars to build a much needed new clubhouse for the Waterford Demons. This is something I have been fighting for since I was elected as the member for Waterford and it is something that the club has been crying out for for many years. Their existing clubhouse is old, run down and, sadly, not usable, making it incredibly hard for them to host club events and raise money for the club. After numerous meetings and applications for grants, I am pleased to announce that we have been able to secure funding, along with Logan City Council, to ensure the Waterford Demons can build their new clubhouse and continue to grow. I would like to thank my colleague the member for Springwood and Minister for Sport, who helped secure the funding thanks to the government's Activate! sport strategy and action plan.

The Demons are an incredible local club that puts the community first. They have equal participation of girls and women at the core of their values. I would like to especially congratulate club president Kristen Devine, secretary Marleis Sparey and coaching coordinator Mick Sparey for instilling this culture within the club. Currently the Demons do not have enough change rooms for the amount of players that they have, especially their girls and their women players. Waterford Demons has one of the highest numbers of women participating in Rugby League. It is an incredible achievement. They have some of the highest numbers of women participating in any Rugby League club in the country. It is fantastic that as part of this upgrade and expansion they will be able to upgrade the women's change rooms to provide their players with decent facilities.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to making it even easier for women and girls to participate in sport through our Get in the Game initiative and our \$15 million Female Facilities Fund. I am incredibly proud to champion the Waterford Demons and the incredible work they do ensuring that women and girls can fully participate in Rugby League. They also do fantastic work in partnership with Youth and Family Services in Logan around mental health awareness and suicide prevention. They are a brilliant community organisation. Next year is their 40th anniversary and I cannot wait to see them continue to smash the competition, deliver more premierships and celebrate their 40th anniversary in their brand-new clubhouse.