




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.41 pm): There is a shed in the heart of Zillmere which used to supply office furniture for government workers right across the state and employed dozens of locals. Then the LNP shut it down and sold off the business. The shed has sat vacant ever since. It is close to the QFleet workforce in Zillmere which used to employ 49 locals before the LNP shut it down too. These closures ripped the guts out of local jobs in Zillmere and hurt the community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Aspley, you have used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MELLISH: I withdraw. These closures hurt the local community in Zillmere no end. I am very proud to have helped secure the transformation of this old shed into a brand-new indoor sports centre which is under construction right now. The Northside Indoor Sports Centre will be the new home of the Northside Wizards Basketball. It will also be a hub for many other sports, with five courts and seating for over 300 spectators.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana and member for Sandgate, stop your quarrelling across the chamber, thanks.

Mr MELLISH: We also helped fund the relocation of the Jabiru Community College right next door which opened earlier this year, providing a flexible learning environment for students in years 10 to 12. Jabiru only had to relocate because Brisbane City Council and the LNP candidate for Aspley kicked them out of their previous home in Bracken Ridge. They made no provision for them in a renovation of the Bracken Ridge Library, which notably included a renovation of the Bracken Ridge ward office. As always, we are cleaning up after the LNP.

These two facilities 100 metres from the Zillmere train station will help revitalise a great suburb and ensure generations of Zillmere locals can learn and stay active without having to leave the local area. Nearby we have a new indoor sports hall and arts facilities at Aspley State High commencing soon. We have new \$6.5 million sporting facilities in Carseldine which the member for Sandgate and I were very pleased to open in January. Connecting these will be a new footbridge so that school kids do not have to cross a dangerous pipe to get to school behind Aspley State High School. I also note that the council opposed this process and did not contribute a single cent to it.

We have also delivered a revamped Geebung Bowls Club and, before COVID-19 hit, I was proud to turn on the new lights at the Aspley Hornets club. In this term I am proud to have made the Aspley electorate arguably the new home of sport on the north side. The global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. There are no two ways about it. We are doing what we can locally to deliver jobs through great local projects.

Locally, many Aspley small businesses are doing it tough but they are persevering and adapting to the circumstances particularly well. Our plan is already creating jobs and kickstarting Queensland by bringing forward investment and futureproofing infrastructure, buying locally in Queensland and supporting Queensland industries and businesses.

While I have time, I would like to add my voice to the absolute chorus of people opposed to Brisbane City Council's mad decision to axe kerbside collections for two years. This is an essential service. People rely on this as a yearly service—people who cannot go the dump, people who do not have a vehicle to take things to the dump. This is \$13 million in what is a \$3 billion budget. It is absolutely outrageous that they have got rid of this. I expect them to backflip, but I will not hold my breath.