




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Premier's Export Awards; Northside Indoor Sports Centre

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (6.18 pm): Yesterday I had the opportunity to help launch the 2021 Premier's Export Awards. Along with the Premier and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries I was delighted to meet with some of Queensland's contenders this year. There were a range of businesses attending and offering a taste of their fantastic products, including: Nutrafruit from Yeerongpilly, which exports probiotic products from Queensland's own Queen Garnett super plum; 4 Hearts Brewing from Ipswich; and Gold Coast Sobah, an exporter of non-alcoholic beers which we were able to taste.

Like the Premier, I continue to be impressed by the resilience of our exporters during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite setbacks due to the global pandemic, Queensland continues to achieve, with one in five Queensland jobs in the export industry. They are central to our economic recovery. These businesses are critical to our economy, including to our regions and of course our overall economic recovery. Entries will open for the 31st year of the awards in coming weeks, with winners announced in October. Winners will then be in the running to become the national export champion. I look forward to seeing the results of the awards in October and hearing more about the success of our amazing exporters.

It was fantastic to join many of my parliamentary colleagues on Monday night for the inaugural parliamentary Friends of Basketball North v. South match. It was even better that the game was at the Northside Indoor Sports Centre, which only opened in October last year right in the heart of Zillmere. It was hosted by the mighty Northside Wizards. It was even better that the south Queensland team won. The north got off to have a great start with some perimeter sharpshooting from the Speaker and the member for Cairns, but we ground them down through a strong fast-break game through our 'super sub' Ash. Our other 'super sub' Michael hitting threes from the Wizards' logo did not hurt at all. The members for Sandgate, Stafford, Macalister, Oodgeroo and myself, with the help of our professional subs, ran away with it in the end. I think the final score was 64 to 51. We were all winners in the end.

Here is the shield. It is fantastic. We had it engraved already. I would love to table it, but I do not want the Speaker getting his hands on it in that way. He has to win it off us the fair way next year. It was a great opportunity to get out there and experience a sport that is very multicultural. Everyone can play. It is very welcoming. It is a growing sport. We are helping it on the north side through our new Northside Indoor Sports Centre. There are plenty more facilities around the state that will be coming online in the coming years, I am sure. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to other members of the parliament what a great facility does for a local community.