




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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ADJOURNMENT

Member for Stretton; Woodridge Electorate, YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.27 pm): I begin my contribution this evening by acknowledging the service in this House of Duncan Pegg, who today announced his forthcoming resignation as the state member for Stretton. Duncan has been a passionate and dedicated servant of his community, and I wish him all the very best in the fight ahead.

It continues to be the greatest of honours to stand in this House and represent the people of Woodridge as their local state member. Each year that honour is shared with one of our community's strong young voices as part of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament. This initiative offers a unique experience for the next generation of community leaders, giving them the opportunity to propose law reform and then debate draft bills right here in this very chamber. It is a platform that helps fuel a passion for politics and positive change—the same passion all of us in this chamber share—and helps us ensure the future of our state is in safe and steady hands.

In 2021, the Woodridge electorate is fortunate and proud to have representation in the Queensland Youth Parliament from Woodridge State High School student Shahzia Gulzari. Shahzia pursued this opportunity to learn from other young Queenslanders and to benefit from their different backgrounds and the journeys they have travelled in life. Shahzia's own journey has been one filled with challenges as she and her family began their journey in Afghanistan and now continue that journey in their new home of Woodridge. Shahzia is eager to further grow her knowledge and to develop her communication skills and her understanding of our democracy.

She wants to find inspiration with this experience and make new connections from it, as does every member of the Youth Parliament. Empowered, resilient, world-changing—these are all words Shahzia has used to describe the Queensland Youth Parliament. They are also words I would use to describe Shahzia herself. I had the pleasure of meeting Shahzia recently—a year 10 student of Woodridge State High School—and the enthusiasm she has for our state and its democracy is infectious. Shahzia is already a fantastic representative for Woodridge and the City of Logan at large. I am so pleased more Queenslanders will now get to know her through this important initiative.

Young Queenslanders like Shahzia are Queensland's leaders of tomorrow. It is crucial for our state's future that their voices are heard and heard by all of us in this chamber. I cannot wait to hear from Shahzia throughout her time in Youth Parliament and beyond.