




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Dolphins

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.28 pm): I rise with pleasure to talk about one of my favourite subjects, footy. While I do not think we can use footy to magically make problems disappear—unlike our Prime Minister—I do believe in the power of sport to bring communities together. A prime example of that is the bid by the Redcliffe Dolphins to become the 17th NRL team and Brisbane's second in the competition, which is a bid that has united all levels of government, the communities of and surrounding Redcliffe, including those I represent in this place, and footy fans from all over our great state.

I have been a fan of the Dolphins for a long time. They support the three great Rugby League clubs in the Kurwongbah electorate as well as many others. Over the years I have seen that awesome community club grow and, like the local state member, my colleague and friend Yvette D'Ath, I get along to home games as often as possible. I agree that the Dolphins are uniquely placed to become Brisbane's second representative team in the NRL, not least because they are located in the best region in the world, Moreton Bay.

The Moreton Bay Regional Council is the third largest council in Australia. Its population is predicted to almost double in size over the next 15 years. With Queensland properties in such high demand thanks to our strong response to COVID-19, I would not be surprised if that prediction is revised upwards in the future. The local infrastructure is there thanks to the hard work by Dolphins management, players and fans over decades and thanks also to the great government investment in the 10,000-seat Moreton Daily Stadium.

We are also perfectly placed between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast regions for fans to attend games that are able to be played in Redcliffe. In Moreton Bay we have our own rail line and our own university. Now we want an NRL footy team.

I have said it before and I will say it again: getting kids into community sport keeps them off the streets. Keeping kids in sport provides opportunities for their families to be involved and engaged in the community. There is arguably no more powerful motive for kids to get involved in sport than having access to their heroes and, even better, having homegrown, home trained, real local heroes.

The Dolphins have all the elements they need to succeed in the NRL: they have stable and progressive management; there are over 40,000 Dolphins members; with affiliates they have more than 5½ thousand players on the books; and there is wideranging community sport, local and regional infrastructure, and excellent transport options. It just makes sense. The Dolphins are NRL ready and I proudly support their bid. Anyone in the chamber today or listening at home who wants to get behind this bid can visit the Facebook page @dolphinsnrlbid and throw them a like today.