



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### International Workers Memorial Day; Labour Day; Redcliffe Dolphins

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.10 pm): I rise to pay my respects for two important milestones we have marked in the past two weeks: International Workers Memorial Day and Queensland's Labour Day. Last month I proudly attended International Workers Memorial Day and helped to lay a wreath at Emma Miller Place in Roma Street, Brisbane with my ministerial colleagues, the members for Springwood, Miller and Townsville. For those who do not know, 28 April each year is International Workers Memorial Day—a day organised by unions across the world to commemorate workers who have tragically lost their lives at work. This year we remembered the 32 workers who died on the job in Australia up to the end of April—32 workers who said goodbye to their families and went off to work and never came home. In 2020, there were 178 Australian workers who were killed at work, and in 2019 there were 183 people who died on the job in this country. In the last 12 months, 26 Queenslanders have lost their lives while trying to earn their livelihood.

This year the international theme for International Workers Memorial Day is 'Health and safety is a fundamental workers' right', and I agree. Every death at work is one too many. We can do better; we must do better. We also must focus beyond the risk of purely physical workplace injuries and seek to eliminate the adverse mental health impacts of unsafe workplaces. I welcome the Premier's announcement recently that we will review our state's industrial laws with the goal of strengthening them where sexual harassment is concerned as another step in the right direction. I welcome opportunities for our government to work in partnership with the union movement and all workers to continue to strengthen and improve our workplace laws across Queensland and across the country.

This brings me to the second occasion I want to highlight today—our celebration of Labour Day on Monday, 3 May. Members were out in force, showing strong union pride after a COVID-19 enforced hiatus in 2020. I was especially proud to say that my union, the mighty Electrical Trades Union, won best contingent on the day.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I want to thank everyone who participated on the day—either by joining us in town or by cheering us on at home. I take that interjection from the member for Logan who is quite proud of the ETU as well.

Labour Day is very special to me as a member of the trade union movement and a member of the Australian Labor Party. Our party was founded back in the 1890s to fight for better rights at work. It is what drove me to become a union member, a delegate and then a representative in this place. The LNP tried to deny our history and squash the celebrations of our achievements for workers when they shifted Labour Day from May in 2013. We fought back, with the Palaszczuk government restoring our May Day public holiday in 2016, and we on this side of the chamber will continue to fight every day to stand up for Queensland workers.

With the brief time I have left, I would like to reiterate something I said last sitting week about the NRL bid and the mighty Redcliffe Dolphins. Ipswich should not get it. I do believe it should be the Redcliffe Dolphins all the way.