




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Lakeside Park

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.03 pm): I rise tonight to talk about Lakeside Park, the iconic racetrack formerly known as Lakeside International Raceway. It first opened in 1961 and has played host to some amazing racing over the years—the Formula One Tasman series, the Australian Touring Car Championship, the Australian Superbike Championship and the Australian Grand Prix. Iconic racers like Jack Brabham, Dick Johnson, Peter Brock and Mick Doohan have all raced there over the years.

Sadly, in 2001 the Pine Rivers Shire Council bought the land and closed the racing down. I doubt there is anyone here who does not know how proud I am that Lakeside is in my electorate of Kurwongbah and how involved I have been in the Save Lakeside campaign. Through people power and significant investment by Queensland Raceways, Lakeside reopened in April 2008. Although I am a motoring enthusiast—I never hide that—and a regular visitor to that track, my support goes well beyond my personal interest. It is good for our community.

There are awesome tourism opportunities which bring great local economic benefits. As a hire venue, Lakeside is easily accessible and available for community events and conferences—when COVID restrictions permit, of course. The footprint of the track and the location of buildings mean there is ample green space for locals to enjoy—something that I know other outer metropolitan communities are crying out for. Lakeside hosts cycle training, including our Australian Paralympic team training. I will just slip a cheeky plug in here about Lakeside hosting potential training for the Olympics. Lakeside is important for our youth. Having a place for young drivers to race in a safer, supportive and affordable environment takes hooning off our streets. Lakeside is home to defensive driver education programs as well as vehicle safety testing and manufacturing days, with RACQ and QUT among its clients.

Finally, Lakeside Park is also helping Queensland students to achieve a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways qualifications through the Formula High School Racecar Build Program—a program culminating in a six-hour endurance race event at Lakeside. Just last month, Lakeside hosted 500 students and teachers as part of this program, an elective subject for high school VET students that also contributes QCE points towards their high school certificate. I wish they had something like that when I was at school.

John Tetley, the operator, is an owner with ambition. They have a long-term vision for the place that includes: quad bike and four-wheel drive training; nature based, non-motorised activities, such as mountain bike trails; and a caravan and camping area. Unfortunately, as it stands, any expansion is constrained by noise restrictions and a few vocal residents and we need to sort that out. The Deputy Premier, my neighbour, is also a supporter of the place. We think it has a lot of potential and should be able to operate.