



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### National Rugby League, Redcliffe Dolphins

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.28 pm): Thank you, Deputy Speaker Kelly, and I apologise for the scarf—but not the win. This week Christmas came early for the people of Redcliffe. We heard the marvellous news that the mighty Redcliffe Dolphins will be the 17th club of the NRL from 2023. How great is that! The Dolphins have always been NRL-ready and now our time has come to shine on the national stage. A number of well-known players have come through the Dolphin ranks, including Petero Civoniceva, Arthur Beetson, Bunny Pearce, with many more to come. I want to make a special mention of legend Des Webb. I wish he could have been here to see this. He would have been so proud. This is for you, Des.

In February 1947 the Redcliffe Dolphins, known then as Shellgrit, was founded. In 1959 the club received full district club status and was accepted into the Brisbane first grade competition. Fast forward 74 years and the Dolphins are now ready to take the next step in their journey and join the National Rugby League. I have been a passionate supporter of the Dolphins for a number of years—and I know many in this chamber have as well—and have seen them grow, develop and go from strength to strength. It was so thrilling to witness the Dolphins take out their sixth Queensland Cup title in 2018, defeating Easts Tigers, and while I know they did not make the finals this year, the club has won something even better—a place to shine on the national stage.

A lot of blood, sweat and tears and many months of hard work has gone into the Dolphin NRL bid. The plan to join the NRL has been in discussion for many years. I congratulate chairman Bob Jones, bid chief Terry Reader, Tony Murphy, the CEO of Redcliffe Leagues Club, and the whole team for putting together such a successful bid. The success of the bid comes down to the grassroots campaign by the local Redcliffe community and wider support base. Over 7,000 people signed the pledge to support the team. The key to long-term success is growth and that is why I am pleased to hear that a condition of the licence is that the Dolphins will invest \$2 million every year on participation and growing the women's game in South-East Queensland.

Whether you are a sports fan or not these are exciting times and the addition of a new NRL team based in South-East Queensland and, in particular, within the Moreton Bay region, will also support our local businesses and drive economic growth. I am advised that the new team is projected to generate around \$74 million annually to our regional economy and it is estimated to support more than 400 local jobs, which is great news. To say that I am excited about this new chapter at the Dolphins is an absolute understatement. I know I speak on behalf of my entire Redcliffe community when I say, 'Go the Phins!'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Congratulations to the Dolphins. I look forward to watching the Rabbitohs beat them in the NRL and I look forward to the Easts Tigers beating them in the Queensland Cup.