



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Armitage, Mr S

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.38 pm): Sam ‘Carrot’ Armitage’s love of footy began as a five-year-old playing for the Deception Bay Raiders. It was the camaraderie and mateship that had him hooked from the very beginning. Even as a junior, Carrot was big on on-field talk and solid in defence. After a short stint at the Redcliffe Dolphins, Carrot became a Stanley River Wolf in 2002.

Everyone loved—and still loves—playing alongside Carrot. In 2005 as an under-14 he won his first ever grand final at Stanley River. Nobody seems to remember whom the game was against. That could be because of too many head knocks. In those days Stanley River did not have a seniors side. Kids like Carrot had to leave the club and play elsewhere, so under-18s was played at the Kilcoy Yowies.

During that off-season, Carrot was involved in a serious car accident, fracturing his eye socket, cheekbone, jaw and discs in his back and neck, as well as sustaining a bleed on the brain. He remained in a coma for two weeks, with doctors advising him he could no longer play footy. For five devastating years, Carrot tried to watch on from the sidelines. Then he made the decision—against doctors’ orders—to return to the game he loved with a year back at the Kilcoy Yowies before two years in the front row at the Caboolture Snakes.

It was during the 2016 season that an idea was born. Sick of riding from Woodford to Caboolture for training twice a week, Carrot enlisted former Wolves juniors Tim, Connor and Cannon and the Wolves committee and, armed with a list of 50 players, got the league to grant permission for the club to re-enter a senior team. Carrot then had to find a coach. He approached club legend Vic at the Woodford pub. No word of a lie, Carrot said Vic laughed at him and told him to ‘go ... himself’. It took many conversations and many, many beers to talk Vic into the coaching role, and the rest is history.

The Wolves 2B team lost only one regular season game that year, won the minor premiership and home semi, then defeated Palmwoods 16-8 in the grand final, and Carrot was the players’ player for the season. In 2019, he led the Wolves back into the A-grade. It turned out to be another fairytale season. The team took out the minor premiership and went on to win the grand final 28-16 over Caboolture. It was the first A-grade final the club had won since 1992.

Through COVID and floods and changes to senior teams since, Carrot has shone. He has been a player, a coach, a volunteer, a committee member, a mentor, an inspiration and a mate, and he will always be Stanley River’s favourite ginger. He is the first to lend a hand or offer advice, going above and beyond to even take a club member to her formal. He is the crazy 1 am video call requesting a Stanley River Uber; he is the guy who can do the splits and not spill a drop of beer. His larger-than-life personality is infectious and you cannot help but love him. He is the heart, soul and face of the Wolfpack and the club are better for his involvement.

For all of these reasons and more, last week the Stanley River Wolves inducted Sam ‘Carrot’ Armitage as a life member. Special thanks go to the club president, Mary-Anne Hallam, for this speech, which originally was 15 minutes long. I have managed to condense it into three.