




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Springfield, Brisbane Lions

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.39 pm): The Brisbane Lions are home—in Springfield. Last week the Brisbane Lions officially moved into their new home, Brighton Homes Arena, and the new state-of-the-art training and administration facility. It was a pleasure to welcome AFL commission members, CEO Gil McLachlan, Brisbane Lions Chairman Andrew Wellington and board members as well as the Minister for Sport, Stirling Hinchliffe, to my community to celebrate this important milestone for the Brisbane Lions and the AFL. I was able to offer a very warm welcome on behalf of our Greater Springfield community. This is a community that I am proud to call home. It is a community that I am proud to represent and I hope the Brisbane Lions will equally embrace us as their new home, and the signs are certainly encouraging. I want to thank the Brisbane Lions for their genuine and honest engagement to date with me and with our local community—with our schools, our businesses and our sporting groups. I certainly feel that the people of Springfield have already embraced the Brisbane Lions. There is so much excitement for this project and the many opportunities that it will bring to our region. The economic opportunities are clearly evident—for our businesses and for enabling development and infrastructure, and of course the Brisbane Lions will be a major employer locally, bringing more jobs into our growing community.

Greater Springfield is only around 25 per cent complete, so we certainly have a long way to grow. The sporting opportunities are also well recognised. This \$80 million facility is a significant investment for all levels of government. The Queensland government contributed \$18 million towards the stadium, which will be the official home of the Brisbane Lions AFL Women's team, which is on fire at the moment. For the Queensland government, it is also reflective of our aspirations to improve sporting facilities and pathways for women athletes and builds on our government's support for the AFL Queensland Grand Final Facilities Fund and our \$8 million partnership with the AFL to improve facilities for the sport across Queensland. Of course, the Brighton Homes Arena is earmarked as a prospective 2032 Olympics and Paralympics venue, and we know just how transformative that opportunity will be.

There are some other opportunities that, as the local member, I am most excited about. It is the young Indigenous girl attending Hymba Yumba Independent School just up the road from the stadium who may just see some of these incredible women athletes training here and wonder whether she could learn to play AFL. It is the newly arrived refugee seeking resettlement and support from Multicultural Australia who will have a base at the facility with the incredible facilities that the Brisbane Lions have built and are offering to share with our community in Springfield, and for that I am very grateful. I recognise this has been a very long journey for the Brisbane Lions and the AFL. The move to Springfield is the realisation of an original commitment to this very project confirmed in August 2013 by the then federal Labor government. The Abbott Liberal government was then elected, failed to back it and almost killed the dream, so it has been a difficult, almost tortuous journey, throwing in a global pandemic! I have been on the journey with them for only part of the way, but I am so pleased that we can finally say to the Brisbane Lions, you are home now.