



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Redlands Electorate, Islands**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.52 pm): I love the electorate of Redlands. It is probably one of the most unique electorates in all of South-East Queensland with five islands with strong residential populations. I think we are looking somewhere in the vicinity of 10,000 residents who live across Coochiemudlo, Macleay, Lamb, Karragarra and Russell. There is fantastic work going on there. The investment by the Palaszczuk government has been significant.

The satellite hospital that I spoke about earlier this week is absolutely going to service those islands—a \$40 million piece of catalytic infrastructure that will unlock the Weinam Creek PDA, which is the gateway to our beautiful islands. We are doing some fantastic work there with the hospital. We also have work going on across our schools there. On Russell Island I am pleased to report that there is a \$2.9 million investment in new classrooms that will be coming hopefully over the Christmas period. I am looking forward to seeing that work done.

Importantly, our ferry terminals are the gateway to the islands. They are the arrival and departure experience. There is a \$40 million collaboration with Redland City Council. I think it is really important to talk about working together. When all levels of government work together you get great outcomes. I am pleased to report that they are well on the way. Russell Island is going gangbusters—hopefully it will be open towards the end of this year. Macleay is taking shape now, and they are on to Lamb and Karragarra on the island side of works and the pontoon. That is excellent work.

I want to talk about Running Wild. They are a fantastic organisation that services our island community. Services to islands are difficult in any context. I am sure the member for Cook understands what I am talking about. When you live on an island everything is just that bit more of a challenge. Mobility is super important. The Running Wild youth foundation delivers the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in hospitality, in nature conservation and in all sorts of amazing areas. They do a fantastic job. They also do our Containers for Change recycling program across the islands and they keep the money in the local economy. It is really important for our community. We are up there in the numbers. I think the Redlands was not quite in the top five in the state in terms of containers, but I am sure once we bring in those other types of bottles we might lift our game and do a bit better!

Running Wild do a terrific job. They are based on Macleay Island. They have been under some pressure in terms of the permanency of their home. There have been some urgent meetings today with the Redland City Council about not closing them and booting them off the island. If that happens, they will fall out of the system. Our islanders will not be benefiting in the recycling space which is really important. We sit on a national marine park across all of those islands. I implore the Redland City Council to work together with Running Wild and with our agencies to make sure that we deliver a strong economy and a strong community for all of my islands.