




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Sharp, Mr C; Caboolture, Small Business Network

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (8.39 pm): I start by thanking the member for Burnett for the acknowledgement. He is actually a fundamentally decent member of parliament and I appreciate his acknowledgement of the government's announcement today, ultimately to uplift fire and emergency services in the state. I thank him for his support and also his acknowledgement.

I would like to pay tribute to a person who recently lost his life in the Caboolture area: Chris Sharp, a former president of Caboolture Rotary. His funeral is tomorrow. He was another fundamentally decent person. I have many good memories of my dealings with Chris Sharp, not only as president of Caboolture Rotary but also as a contributor to the Caboolture community. I have good memories not only of him hosting the toad races at the Caboolture Historical Village for the flag day, which is often held around Australia Day, but also of his efforts in respect of the Rotary Christmas raffle, which raises significant money for community initiatives and good works in the Caboolture area. I offer my condolences to his lovely wife, Cheron. I know that this is a very tough time for her, for members of Caboolture Rotary and, quite frankly, for our community because Chris was such a great community champion. I will miss him. He was a fundamentally good and decent person.

I also acknowledge some of the outstanding work that is being done in the Caboolture region through my small business network. Every couple of months I host a business coffee catch-up at the Caboolture Sports Club, and just last week we hosted the most recent opportunity for small businesses in the Caboolture and Morayfield region to catch up, to network and to share stories around how their businesses are going. Over 100 businesses attended last week's catch-up. We shared stories about how they are being proactive in our community around not only providing job opportunities for young people but also dealing with the challenges around the tight labour market that many industries are experiencing at the moment.

Those small businesses are exceptional contributors to the Caboolture-Morayfield region and I am very fortunate to have such dedicated people who not only run businesses in my local community but also have a keen focus on the future generation of not only employees but also business owners. It was very good to share with them some of the initiatives that the state government has around supporting small businesses and, of course, supporting opportunities for young people to get into the workforce. I commend all those businesses that attend my small business network and I look forward to catching up with them at the next one.