




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Labrador Tigers Football Club

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (8.42 pm): The federal budget told a story of cuts for Queensland, but at least one project was spared the razor. In giving credit where credit is due, I would like to acknowledge we are finally getting the funding that the Labrador Tigers Football Club has long deserved. This was a project the LNP committed to at the last state election. Unfortunately, we did not get to government to deliver the funding and the state Labor government did not support the project. I will put politics aside to acknowledge the new government's unsuccessful candidate for my local federal electorate of Fadden achieved a \$900,000 commitment anyway, which is now in the budget.

Members will know this club is close to my heart, and not just because I had a Victorian dad and so Aussie Rules was my sport of choice.

An opposition member: Go the Lions!

Mr O'CONNOR: No, I am not taking that interjection. I just did, didn't I? No, it is because for a few years I worked behind the bar at the Tigers. In fact—and members can check my biography on the parliament's website—technically my job immediately prior to politics was 'bartender/courtesy bus driver at Labrador AFL Sports Club'. It is a great local club which had an outstanding season this year. All four of their senior men's teams made the finals: the seniors, the reserves, the Colts and division 4. The reserves actually won their second premierships in a row. They had more juniors play for the Tigers this year than ever before. I want to give a special shout-out to the under-14s who, sadly, fell short in the grand final but had a great season. It is a group of boys who have played together since Auskick. I am sure they will be back stronger next year.

Labrador also started a women's team last year. In their second season they won twice as many games as they did in their first year. I will not go into the details of how many, but the club actually lost female players because of the sad state of their current facilities. We actually think this is the only Aussie Rules club in Queensland to go backwards in this demographic as women and girls now make up well over 40 per cent of players across our state. That is because Labrador has missed out on funding compared to pretty much every other club on the coast, and that is not good enough.

Getting this upgrade is really important and it will mean that the Tigers can have separate change rooms for men, women and their umpires. The design is being finalised, and pending council approvals it should be underway by the start of next year. That would be a really fitting time to get it going because 2023 is actually the 60th birthday of the Labrador Football Club and they will be undergoing a rebrand with a new logo in celebration. The final hurdle is that we need about another \$200,000 to \$300,000. I will be writing to the states sports minister to ask what grant options might be available to get this underway. If we are let down, we will have to see what funding we can get from the City of Gold Coast with the support of our local councillor Ryan Bayldon-Lumsden.