




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Waterford Community

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.53 pm): I want to take this opportunity to reflect on 2022 and all that it has brought for the Waterford community. It is no secret that it has not been the easiest year, starting off with devastating floods and, like the rest of the world, experiencing rising cost-of-living pressures. Through these adversities, the Waterford community has pulled together and endured. As the year draws to a close, it seems fitting to reflect on some of 2022's brightest Waterford moments and, in particular, its brightest people.

Firstly, I want to give a shout-out to Cath Bartolo. Cath has been the CEO of YFS for over 20 years—a phenomenal achievement—but she did announce that she will be stepping down in February of next year. YFS provides vital support in Logan and surrounding areas for people facing homelessness and domestic and family violence. Cath has been an absolute inspiration and force for good, and she will be dearly missed. Cath, thank you for everything you do.

Speaking of local legends, I want to give a shout-out to Louie Naumovski from the Logan House Fire Support Network. Louie provided enormous support for the community during this year's floods, and I hear he will be spending Christmas Day helping the Logan Emergency Service's Santa Run to deliver presents at local hospitals because he is simply that good.

It has been a very successful year for Waterford's residents, too. Alysia Lefau-Fakaosilea, a graduate of Canterbury College, won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games with the Rugby 7s. Congratulations, Alysia, you have done us all proud.

Speaking of schools, Andrew Peach finished up as the former executive principal of Marsden State High School. Andrew has accomplished so much during his time at Marsden and it did not go unnoticed. In 2020, he was awarded Principal of the Year at the Australian Education Awards. I have no doubt he will thrive in his new role as general manager for School Participation at the NRL. On behalf of the entire Waterford and Logan community, I want to wish Andrew Peach all the best.

The most deserving praise is, of course, for the graduating class of 2022. Students graduating this year have been through so much the past few years. It is a testament to their strength and character that they have managed to do so well despite a global pandemic, devastating floods and all the usual ups and downs of being a teenager. I especially want to congratulate Dean Kilpatrick from Mabel Park State High School who was awarded 2022 Dux and is widely admired for his perseverance, commitment to the school community and is a role model for younger students. To Dean and all the class of 2022, you should be so proud. I cannot wait to see what you do next.

To the Waterford community, thank you for everything you have done. I am so lucky to represent the best community in Queensland and I cannot wait to keep working with you in 2023.