




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Lehmann, Mr G; BaconFest

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.56 pm): On Saturday evening I joined the member for Lockyer, Jim McDonald, at the local Somerset mayor's ball. This is a charity ball that raises money for our local communities. More importantly than that, this latest ball was to recognise the almost three decades of our incredible local mayor, Graeme Lehmann. Graeme announced his retirement on the evening. I would like to congratulate Graeme and his wife, Judy, and their family for dedicating their last three decades to the Somerset and Lockyer communities. It was lovely to see so many other mayors attend the event as well.

Graeme has had a steady hand on the ship for the Somerset region since 1994. He spent a decade as a councillor and by the next election he will have spent two decades as mayor of the Somerset. He has always given so freely of his time. He is very highly respected by his colleagues and the staff at the council.

Graeme has steered the Somerset region through many natural disasters—bushfires and multiple destructive flood events that affected large parts of the Somerset region. He has been instrumental in the success of the Brisbane Valley Rail Trail, which runs the length of the Somerset regional area. I was pleased to officially open the BVRT with Graeme in 2018. In fact, this month we celebrate the BVRT's five years of operation. It is a fantastic achievement for that area. There is no doubt that it has created an economic boost for the Somerset towns along the trail, and we have seen the growth of new tourism businesses and opportunities. I am proud to have worked alongside Mayor Graeme Lehmann for this unique asset for our region.

Mayor Graeme Lehmann has also overseen many important replacements of the majority of the old wooden bridges in the Somerset region with highly resilient new bridges. I give a massive shout-out to the former LNP federal government because that was a massive undertaking. Graeme understood the importance of the agricultural sector and that local producers need good road and bridge infrastructure to get their product to market, as well as the creation of sustainable transport routes in times of disaster. Graeme Lehmann will leave behind a remarkable legacy for the growth and development of the Somerset region. I want to thank Graeme for all he has done and wish him and his lovely wife, Judy, all the very best in their much deserved retirement.

In the last 15 seconds I want to give a massive shout-out to the 300-odd volunteers and chief baconeer, Anitta Stallwood, for the wonderful and highly successful BaconFest that was on at the weekend. A big thanks to SunPork and everyone in Kingaroy who enjoyed this incredible festival.

(Time expired)