




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Stretton Electorate, Lunar New Year

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.21 pm): Lunar New Year is always a very busy time in the Stretton electorate. We are so fortunate to have such a diverse and vibrant community that is home to people from all over the world. There are many spectacular celebrations that take place throughout the year in my community, and Lunar New Year is no doubt one of the best. It is a time for family reunions, delicious food and traditional rituals that reflect deep respect for ancestors and heritage. It is also an occasion for communities to come together and celebrate their shared culture and traditions.

This year we are celebrating the Year of the Rabbit, which is said to bring peace, prosperity and longevity. Those born in the Year of the Rabbit are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded and ingenious, which are all qualities clearly evident in the good member for Rockhampton who himself was born in the Year of the Rabbit.

The member for Toohey and I have had the pleasure of attending numerous Lunar New Year dinners hosted by outstanding community organisations on the south side. I must say that whilst the cuisine is delicious, I have had so much that I do not think I can look at any more yum cha or dumplings at the moment. I have had to work a lot harder at the gym in recent weeks to work off all of the delicious food.

I would like to thank the Hakka Association of Queensland, World Arts and Multi-Culture Inc., Queensland Chinese Forum, the Chung Tian Temple, the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese, the Queensland Dongbei Association, the Shandong Association, the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations, the Henan Association, the Hanfu Association and the Chinese Culture Association for their contributions to our community and their amazing hospitality throughout the celebrations. I also give a special mention to all the kung fu schools and lion dance schools, in particular the Hong Teck Dance Sports Association, for their death-defying lion dance performances at Warrigal Square and Calamvale Marketplace chasing away evil spirits and bringing good luck for 2023.

I was also pleased to carry on a Stretton tradition of handing out red packets filled with gold coins to locals for Lunar New Year—chocolate coins, that is—as a good luck blessing. Special thanks goes to my electorate officer, Adam Chappell, for putting on the rabbit suit and touring the electorate with me. It is not in the job description, but he went above and beyond. He certainly makes a very good rabbit.

One of the highlights of the celebration each year is the fireworks on top of Sunnybank Plaza which are always very well attended by the community. It was fantastic to see so many families of different ethnicities celebrating out there on the rooftop car park. I also look forward to the Premier's Lunar New Year reception next week where we will be joined by many community leaders.

I would like to wish all members of the House and all the people of Stretton a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year. May the Year of the Rabbit bring you all courage, strength and good fortune.