



Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**


**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### The Gap, Community Battery

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (7.03 pm): I would like to use this opportunity tonight to update the House on one of our local federal election commitments that was made to our electorate during the Albanese federal campaign. Our electorate regrettably did not benefit from our Labor candidates being elected. I would like to commend Peter Cossar and Madonna Jarret who both worked so hard along with me to negotiate what I think are some really meaningful election commitments with the Albanese government. Regrettably, despite being a community that is so vibrant and has so much going on to celebrate, our two federal members who were elected have chosen almost exclusively to focus their time on criticising the government which I do find extremely disappointing since they were elected on a promise to do politics differently.

Since they have been elected, I have received conservatively four pieces of mail between them, all of which have focused on criticising the current Labor government. To put that into context, across both electorates it is about 628,000—more than half a million—individual pieces of printed mail, printed and distributed in a nine-month period, which I think is a really curious way to use public funds and particularly to communicate with an electorate who does care so much about the environment and about minimising reckless waste.

Unlike our federal members, I have really loved the change of government and the momentum that we are creating on important issues like housing and climate change. The most exciting election commitment that I like to talk about was the announcement for a community battery scheme in The Gap. The suburb of The Gap has a really high uptake of rooftop solar, but only one in five households have battery storage capacity. We know that batteries are so essential for storing energy for use overnight and that it is critical if we are going to transition away from coal-fire and gas energy. The community battery will support around 250 households with solar energy storage and use, and will provide a great opportunity to test and try how community battery infrastructure like this works in practice. Expressions of interest for distributed network providers have occurred throughout February.

I have been supporting a really exciting local group, The Gap Sustainability Initiative, to work with Energex around the implementation of the project. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of that expression of interest, but, once announced, consultation with neighbours certainly will begin on how best to operationalise the project. I look forward to the opportunity that it will bring our community to demonstrate how suburbs can collectively bargain to get off the electricity grid and have far more energy ownership and autonomy.

I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively and constructively with the Albanese government to ensure our Cooper community gets its fair share of investment and funding.