




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Nudgee Electorate

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.03 pm): One of my favourite parts of being a local member is engaging with young people across my electorate and listening to their thoughts on current issues, the challenges they are experiencing and their hopes and dreams for the future. So often these conversations are made possible by the regular contact we have as local members with local schools and community groups. For me, these conversations are also made possible by my Nudgee Youth Advisory Council, now in its third year.

Throughout the year I have had the invaluable insight of 11 young locals, some in their senior years of high school, some in university and some who have joined the workforce full-time. We have discussed their experiences and concerns with vaping, our democratic processes of voting in a referendum and what it means as an Australian to have your say in what our founding document looks like. They have raised a number of issues that concern them as young people—from mental health, to consent education and action in schools—and as their representative in parliament I am thankful to them for their honesty and for lending their voices to the deep issues we are considering in government. I am looking forward to hosting them here in parliament on Thursday evening and wrapping up another successful year for the Nudgee Youth Advisory Council.

I also recently wrapped up my Nudgee Small Business Awards, which I established during COVID to rally our community behind our local small businesses and their amazing staff during what was a very difficult time for all. Of course, my wonderful community needed no convincing, and each year since it has been so heartening to see the many thousands and thousands of votes flood in in appreciation of our local small business community—from Phil's Fruit and Veggies, a business run out of the Nundah home of Phil and Colleen, who source fresh, quality produce at an affordable price to help our local community manage national cost-of-living pressures, to businesses like the Closet, an online preloved clothing store offering an innovative solution to the impact of the fashion industry on the environment. There are so many amazing small businesses across my electorate, and I love shining a light on each of them each year with these awards.

In my new role as environment minister I was proud to introduce into the awards this year the Leanne Linard Sustainability Award, nominated by my community but selected by myself and my hardworking electorate team, for a business that strives to incorporate sustainable, circular economy principles into their business practices. It has been my absolute pleasure over the last week or so to deliver the good news to the winners in person, and I will be looking forward to announcing who they are next week. Thank you to all the amazing constituents in my electorate of Nudgee for always supporting local and each year showing their appreciation for the backbone of our local and Queensland economy: our small businesses and their hardworking teams.