




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Kenrose Street Bakery

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.07 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the resilience of a small family owned business in my electorate, the Kenrose Street Bakery. The wonderful aroma of freshly baked bread and pastries routinely awakens Carina locals who live near Kenrose Street. Ian, Laura and Kensi-Rose are the heart and soul of this small artisan bakery.

The past year has been challenging to say the least. A rainy morning on 22 February last year saw the bakery preparing tempting baked items and serving numerous coffees on a dreary day. Sadly, by 26 February, the bakery went well under water, with fish swimming through the building. The owners closed the bakery trying to assess the huge amount of damage.

By 10 March, a professional cleaning company had been employed to clean and sterilise the building and its contents, including all equipment. Once this process was completed, Ian and Laura were advised that the next stage could take up to two months. In the interim, and not to be deterred, they started work on creating a new menu. On 26 May, the family advised their loyal customer base that after facing more setbacks, the next stage of recovery could take up to another three months.

Whilst they were putting the pieces of their business back together, they visited local farms looking at produce and discussing the hardships faced by farmers in weather cycles. One farmer pointed at damaged crops and said that he just had to deal with the weather and keep ongoing and never give up. Those words resonated with Ian and Laura. August 2022 marked the 20th birthday of Ian's bakery career. He started from scratch in 2002. Due to the flooding circumstances, very sadly, he was pretty much starting from scratch again.

26 September marked the first day of demolition inside the bakery. It was now eight months since Ian had baked in a commercial kitchen. By 27 December the pieces started to come together and advertisements were placed for pastry chefs, bakers and shopfront staff. This is a small family-run business which provides uniforms, training, employment and opportunity; a small business that believes in pride in workmanship; a small business that believes in reward for effort; a small business whose owners start work at 4 am and are often there closing at 4 pm. In Laura and Ian's own words—

There is an image in our mind. People gather to share tables, food and laughter. These pieces are starting to be put back together. Thank you for joining us either as customers or as team members. You make these great days happen and we are excited to see you soon.

I am pleased to state that the Kenrose Street Bakery re-opened its doors last month in early February. Ian, Laura and Kensi-Rose, you have made this recovery happen and I sincerely congratulate you on behalf of the Chatsworth community. You provided not only jobs but strengthened the bonds in our community through adversity. I take this opportunity to salute you on your business resilience. I am always proud to represent small business in my Chatsworth electorate.