




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2023

ADJOURNMENT

NRL, Dolphins

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.09 pm): I rise this evening to reflect on an amazing 2023—the Dolphins' inaugural NRL season—and to put on the record my pride for what they have achieved.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Very disorderly. When the Dolphins' NRL season kicked off on 5 March, many commentators were tipping them as wooden spooners. Instead, our club went on to win their first three matches against the Roosters, Raiders and Knights—what a perfect day that first game was—all clubs that ended up in the top eight. The team was captained by Jesse Bromwich and coached by Wayne Bennett. Unfortunately, a run of injuries cruelled the middle of the season, but the boys stuck it out and beat many people's expectations by finishing in 13th place—four wins outside the top eight. It was particularly gratifying to see the boys finish the season on a high, with a strong 34-10 win over the fourth place Warriors in round 27 at Suncorp Stadium. It was also fantastic to see two players earn State of Origin selection for Queensland earlier in the year: Tom Gilbert, who unfortunately ended up with an injury for the rest of the season, and Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow, whom we know as 'Hammer'.

Last Thursday evening I had the pleasure of attending the Dolphins' inaugural presentation ball held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was a fantastic event. To no-one's surprise, Jamayne Isaako took home four awards: best back, most consistent, players' player and the Arthur Beetson Medal for Player of the Year. Congratulations, Jamayne, on a fantastic season. I also congratulate the other awardees: Hamiso Tabuai-Fidow 'Hammer' named van-voted MVP; Euan Aitken was presented with the academic award; Mark Nicholls was named best forward; and Shane Morris was club person of the year.

To everyone at the Dolphins—the players, coaches, support staff and administration—I would like to put on record our admiration for what you have achieved. To all of the supporters—over 30,000 paid-up members—we say thank you in your first season. I would also like to give a shout-out to the Redcliffe Dolphins cup side, which had an impressive fifth place finish this season. I know that all Dolphins fans, whether they are from Redcliffe, Moreton Bay, Brisbane or beyond, are so proud of what our team has achieved this year. Whilst we did not get the opportunity to play finals football this year, the club has laid a fantastic platform for next year. I know they will all be working hard in the off-season. I also congratulate those players who came up from the QRL: Val, Trai, Jack and others. They did a wonderful job playing at the NRL level.

I was also thrilled that at the inaugural presentation night last week it was announced there will be a Redcliffe Dolphins QRL women's team for 2024, which is fantastic. I cannot wait for the women's team to progress into the NRL, which I know they will be doing in the next few years. Congratulations!