



Speech By  
**James Martin**


**MEMBER FOR STRETTON**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Lunar New Year

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (7.22 pm): Lunar New Year is always a very busy time in the Stretton electorate. We are home to people who have come from all over the world. There are many spectacular cultural celebrations that take place throughout the year in my community, and Lunar New Year is one of the best. It is a time of family reunions, delicious food, lion dances, red lanterns, honouring ancestors and asking for good luck. It is also a very popular time for young family members who receive good luck pocket money in red packets known as hong bao. This year we are celebrating the Year of the Dragon. Those born in the Year of the Dragon are said to be resilient, confident, naturally lucky and successful, with good instincts. Some also can wield great power. MPs born in the Year of the Dragon include the member for Cairns, the member for Macalister, the member for Cook, the member for Pumicestone and also Mr Speaker.

The members for Toohey, Mansfield and I have had the pleasure of attending numerous Lunar New Year dinners hosted by outstanding community organisations on the south side, including the QCUC, QCF, the Cathay Community Association, Sunnycare, the Queensland Federation of Taiwanese Associations, WAMCI, the Beijing Business and Arts Council, the Australia China Cultural and Economic Promotion Association, the Buddha's Light International Association, the Chung Tian Temple, the Shandong Association, the Singapore Club, the Malaysia Club, the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese, the Hakka Association and the Hong Kong Australia Business Association Queensland Chapter. I would like to give a special mention to Buddha's Light Scout Group who were here at parliament today. Leaders Meng, Dylan and their scouts were here visiting parliament for the first time. Last Saturday they were busy raising money at the Chung Tian Temple.

All of these community organisations rely on hardworking volunteers who put their own time and effort into organising these community celebrations. Importantly, I am told that babies born in the Year of the Dragon and specifically this year—2024—are especially lucky as it is a wood dragon year, so much so that there is a population spike in China every wood dragon year. Congratulations to everyone expecting. However, I give fair warning to anyone born in the Year of the Goat. For anyone born in the Year of the Goat, the Year of the Dragon means bad luck for you.

I understand that the Leader of the Opposition was born in the Year of the Goat. According to his Chinese horoscope—and I will read this for *Hansard* as it is very important—'Your lucky streak will be interrupted by the presence of cursed stars, making them more susceptible to accidents, gossip and career downfalls.' If somebody could pass that on to the member for Broadwater, I am sure he would appreciate the warning. Maybe someone could pass that on to the member for Kawana as well. I am sure he would also be very interested. Happy Chinese New Year, members.