




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Cooper Electorate; Charity Organisations and Funding

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (6.02 pm): Someone asked me recently about my greatest achievements in this role. I am not sure about others in the House, but my mind goes to big-ticket items—the election commitments and the huge redevelopments. I have secured more than \$31 million in investment in our local schools; a huge investment in our STEM building for The Gap State High School. That is our biggest public state high school in the electorate—nearly 2,000 students attend that school; it is phenomenal. There have been new prep rooms for Hilder Road State School and incredible nature-based playgrounds for Ashgrove State School. St Joseph's advocated really hard for the Payne Road State School to secure their vertical garden dividing fence, which was a huge thing for their community. I have secured \$15 million in investment for sporting clubs, particularly for lights, so that people can play after-hours and can utilise those sporting fields which we know are in huge demand in the inner city and, of course, ensured that we have women's change rooms to help all of our local clubs secure their goal of gender parity in sport.

I remarked when I was talking to this person that it is the everyday connections that you make in the role that, for me, really make the difference. I wanted to speak to that this evening. I recently helped to connect a couple of fantastic organisations in my electorate. One of those is Trek2Health, of which I am a patron. It is a charity based out at the Enoggera Reservoir led by CEO Bruce Barker, who is fantastic. He runs nature-based programs with first responders—retired serving officers from QPS and QFES—to help boost their resilience and to keep their mental and emotional health on track.

They recently embarked on an incredible new program creating surfboards. When QPS officers retire at 60 they get their officers in to work on these surfboards. They are eco surfboards made of 100 per cent recyclable timber. The officers come together to glue, polish and steam and make these surfboards as part of a social enterprise. In addition to the trekking work they do, they are making this really tactile work, which is phenomenal. They recently partnered with a local artist, Natarscha Schneider, who is fantastic. She creates some wonderful, feminine art pieces, including the shirt that I am wearing tonight. I promised her that I would wear it for her for International Women's Day—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms BUSH:—You are welcome. Sam Matthews is also involved. These are two incredible artists. They mentioned to me they needed help with finding surfboard bags for their surfboards and so I put them in touch with Boomerang Bags. Boomerang Bags is a fantastic organisation. They take all kinds of products and recycle them so that we have less landfill going into our tips. They have been able to join up with Trek2Health to use old fabrics to bring together these surfboard kits. It is like this beautiful, wonderful arranged marriage in my electorate. We have some great organisations doing great things. I am so proud of them.