




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Cooper Electorate, Achievements

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.21 pm): I rise to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to my community. To serve as an elected member is a rare privilege that less than 100 women have had in the entire history of Queensland. I have aimed to faithfully serve the people of Cooper, to represent their views, to deliver local infrastructure and, importantly, to lead with conviction and integrity.

It is no secret that people move to my electorate for our schools. I want to thank the school communities. Together we have secured over \$40 million, including for air conditioning for every classroom, solar panels, STEM buildings, sports halls, disability ramps and safer school zones. I look forward to being returned as the local member so that I can continue that work. I cannot wait to deliver a new library for The Gap State High School. I will continue to advocate for a new hall for Ashgrove State School and, as many locals know, I am determined to see a dedicated school for autistic students established in my electorate. I look forward to continuing that fight.

I want to recognise the sports and community clubs that have involved me in their training days, trophy nights, strategy sessions and working bees. I have loved being included in your celebrations and I look forward to being returned after 26 October so that we can continue to work together on what I see as the greatest issue affecting our community, that is, how to manage an increasing population with rapidly diminishing and contested space. We need to work together, across all levels of government, and we need to work creatively. We have done some great work together. The funding I secured to redevelop the clubhouse for the GPS Rugby Club and Valleys District Cricket Club was a game changer. I have committed funding to sort out their parking issues, which will be another great step forward. I still have unfinished business for The Gap Football Club where the fields and clubhouse need to be done and for Hilder Road State School where new lights are needed. I look forward to continuing that work.

Our people are very invested in caring for our planet. I have never ignored the responsibility I have to represent their views. I was proud to fight for protections for the Lake Eyre Basin and to have our emissions reductions targets enshrined in legislation. I want to thank the folk at the Queensland Conservation Council, Lock the Gate, the Wilderness Society and LEAN who have always given me impartial information and helped to guide my advocacy. We are about to announce the location of our solar community battery for The Gap, courtesy of the Labor federal government. I look forward to seeing that project through as well as continuing to work with The Gap Sustainability Initiative and conservation groups to complete the important work in cleaning our creeks and reintroducing platypus by 2032, which is our big bodacious goal.

In an electorate like Cooper, experience matters, competence matters and leadership and compassion matter. I am proud to have worked every day since I was elected for what matters to the people of Cooper and I always will. That is my commitment.