




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Burnett Electorate, Schools

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (1.13 am): It is school awards season and it has been a privilege to move around the electorate to those wonderful events. To say that I am proud of the young achievers in the Bundaberg and the Burnett electorates would be an understatement. Their hard work, perseverance and dedication have paid off. Tonight I would like to highlight the achievements of some of those exceptional young people, their teachers and their schools.

On Thursday last week we started at the top end of the electorate at the Miriam Vale State School awards night. It was an honour to be there and witness the students receiving recognition through the awards.

Tuesday was a big day for awards. I kicked off the morning at Burnett Heads State School, where the teachers and students always go above and beyond through a program called Amazing Shake. I give a shout-out to Mr Standfast and Mrs Childs, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the program happens each and every year.

On Tuesday we also went to Elliott Heads State School for their awards ceremony, and I give a huge shout-out to Principal Nichola Lister. Principal Lister is constantly advocating for her students to make sure they have access to as many opportunities as possible. When Nichola is not in the classroom, she is assisting her staff. I have enjoyed working alongside Mrs Lister over recent months to make sure there was funding for a memorial bench for a treasured teacher aide, Denise Lee.

A big congratulations to all of the students at Woongarra State School, Kepnock State High School, Bundaberg State High School and Bundaberg Christian College. We have had great nights at their schools witnessing the achievements of their students.

Rewind a few weeks and I had a fantastic morning at the Burnett Youth Learning Centre. Again, it is another great school which consistently advocates for their students and staff. After years of campaigning, it was great to deliver an infrastructure upgrade on Goodwood Road at the entrance to the school earlier this year.

I give a shout-out to Lily and Reese from St Luke's Anglican School. Their awards night was a great night. I was able to present the Humanitarian Award and the Hinkler Lions Service Award to these star students.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the schools across the region which are involved in my act of kindness awards. Each month we aim to recognise a student who has shown kindness and generosity at their school. Thank you to this year's schools: Bororen State School, Miriam Vale State School, Agnes Water State School, Discovery Coast Christian College, Wartburg State School, Elliott Heads State School, Burnett Heads State School, Bargara State School, St Luke's Anglican School and Alloway State School. I look forward to continuing this program with them into 2025.

As the year comes to an end, it is important that I extend my gratitude to the teachers, parents and staff who support and guide these students. Their tireless efforts are integral to the success of these schools. I also acknowledge the youth in our communities. There is a lot said about youth crime and the youth in our communities, but at these awards nights it is really refreshing to see that our communities are on a good trajectory going forward. I wish them all the best in their future endeavours.