




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sports Awards; Duff, Mr P

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.26 pm): 'Tis the season for sports awards in Queensland. There has been much to celebrate at all levels of our sporting community. Recently at the Annual Queensland Sport Awards hosted by QSport, six sporting greats were inducted into the Hall of Fame: Jim Atkins, Shaun Hart, Darren Thrupp, Emilee Cherry, Mark Knowles and Rugby League legend Paul Vautin, who is an old West Mitchie boy. Mount Isa born tennis champion, Pat Rafter, received the highest honour, elevated to the status of Legend of Queensland Sport. The Brisbane Lions premiership winning coach, Chris Fagan, was named Queensland Sport Coach of the Year and we honoured community legends like Queensland Volunteer of the Year, Kimberly Doyle.

The Queensland Academy of Sport Athlete Awards celebrated the incredible achievements of athletes, coaches and performance support teams during the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic cycle. Australia's youngest Olympic gold medallist, Arisa Trew, was named QAS Emerging Athlete of the Cycle. The unstoppable Curtis McGrath picked up two awards—QAS Paralympic Athlete of the Cycle and the QAS Athlete Award. The QAS Inspiring Extraordinary Sporting Success award fittingly went to Australia's most decorated Olympian, Emma McKeon, who recently announced her retirement.

From leading tours on K'gari to providing environmental education and nature play for kids, the Outdoors Queensland Awards celebrated the people and organisations dedicated to making the outdoors accessible and enjoyable for all Queenslanders.

Onto another awards night and the Australian Paralympian of the Year Awards were held on the Gold Coast, with dual-sport gold medallist Lauren Parker claiming top honours. These events recognise the extraordinary talent we have in Queensland. That is why the Crisafulli government is committed to providing the support they need through the Games On initiative, which will invest \$250 million in community sports infrastructure across Queensland. We know the lasting benefits of world-class sporting facilities, and if we want more people involved in sport we must have the best facilities for them.

Last week I announced the establishment of the AusCycling Action and Acceleration Centre of Excellence, a national high-performance hub that will be based at the Anna Meares Velodrome. Hopefully this is the first of many national organisations that will base themselves in Brisbane.

On a sadder note, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to legendary horse trainer Pat Duff, who passed away last month. He was a brilliant trainer, a master horseman and a true gentleman. My thoughts are with the Duff family and the wider Queensland racing community.