



Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**

**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ewan, Mr W; McBride, Mr B, OAM**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.03 pm): I would like to acknowledge the tragic incident reported in the media this evening where a young boy has lost his life in what is understood to be a crash between two e-bikes at Mountain Creek in the Buderim electorate. The police will investigate that incident, but I would like to place on the record this evening that my thoughts are with the family and friends of the young man who has lost his life so tragically this evening.

I would also like to place on record this evening my thanks and appreciation for two hardworking members of the Buderim community whom our community is farewelling this month. Firstly, I want to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr William Donald DeConlay Ewan—‘Don’ as he was known—and, in particular, to his wife, Janet, and his sons, Bruce and Douglas.

Don was a very hardworking man who never complained and just got on with the job. He began his working life at the age of 15 as a jackaroo and quickly rose through the ranks. He had a diligent work ethic and finished up as the manager at Wanganelle Station by the time he was 21. It was arguably one of the most famous and influential merino studs in Australia. Don’s talents and the confidence that others placed in him were evident right throughout his life and he achieved numerous awards. He was voted Citizen of the Year by his fellow community members. After spending his life working and living on the land, he and Janet moved to retire to the electorate of Buderim, where I got to know him.

In recent years, despite Don’s declining health, his service to our community never wavered. He was the patron of local community groups. He spent hours on pre-poll in the most recent campaign, despite being in his later years, in the heat. He was also a familiar face alongside me at roadsides. He loved it about as much as I loved it, but he was there. He was the kind of volunteer you always wanted to have by your side. It is not only a testament to his character; it was also an amazing effort for a man of his age. I will forever be grateful for Don’s friendship and the time we spent together.

I also want to bid farewell to a Buderim great, Mr Brian McBride OAM. He is leaving our community in a different way as he is moving to Melbourne to be closer to his family. In my opinion, Brian has contributed as much as anyone. I cannot think of anyone who has contributed more to Buderim. He has given over 20 years to the Buderim Lions, serving as the president from 2012 until he stepped down last year in 2024. He has been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of initiatives like the Walk to School program and the reimplementation of the Buderim Street Party. Every Wednesday Brian walks to school alongside kids from Buderim Mountain State School, including my own kids, who have grown up and developed under his and the Lions’ mentorship.

Brian is a humble man. He never gives himself credit for the amount of time and effort he puts in. Nonetheless, despite his reluctance, we recognised him as the Buderim Volunteer of the Year a few years ago. His kindness, his diligence and his commitment to our community will be front of mind

forever. I wish him all the best for his new life in Melbourne, and I look forward to staying in touch over the coming years.