




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Stretton State College, Sports Academies Excellence Program

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (9.00 pm): I rise today to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Stretton State College's Rugby League and football academies, which have earned a national reputation for producing elite athletes through years of hard work. Thanks to dedicated HPE teachers, students have secured promotion to the highest levels of school sport in Queensland, competing against schools with far longer histories in these leagues. Their remarkable success, guided by dedicated coaches, demands better facilities to enable home games in these prestigious competitions.

The Stretton Rugby League Academy, under head coach Jayden Best, is a powerhouse, producing stars like Bela Alo and Alessana Betham, who gained Brisbane Broncos junior contracts; Leevi Williams with a Canterbury Bulldogs junior contract; Fleur Ginn with an NRLW contract with the Parramatta Eels; and Tadh Rabb, who made it into the Gold Coast Titans junior academy.

The trophy cabinet is filling up fast, with the open girls winning the Karen Murphy Cup as state champs. The year 6 boys claimed the South-East Queensland championship and the year 8 boys secured the Stradbroke Cup. The years 7 and 8 and 9 and 10 girls triumphed in the Titans Cup, and our community is very proud that the senior boys now compete in the Allan Langer Trophy, Queensland's top schoolboy Rugby League competition. They have come so far in only a few years.

Likewise, the football academy, with coach Matt Pickham, has excelled with students like Georgia Dean representing the Queensland state team and the Queensland Academy of Sport and also earning a scholarship to the Rocky Mountain University in the USA. The open girls teams won the Queensland Football School League, the FQ futsal state championship and the Australasian Futsal Championship, and record numbers earned Met West selections, with three representing Queensland at national titles and the boys and girls teams from years 7 to 12 competing in the Queensland Schools Premier League. It is a massive achievement for such a young academy.

These achievements, driven by coaches Jayden Best, Matt Pickham and others, reflect Stretton's rise to elite status. However, these students have earned promotion to leagues with standards that current facilities cannot meet. This is disappointing for parents and students alike because it means we cannot play fixtures at home at Stretton State College, preventing home games. That is why we need upgraded facilities, including a reorientated oval with two full-size fields, a renewed surface with quality grass, irrigation and drainage; and inclusive change rooms with toilets, showers, storage, lighting and protective fencing. These upgrades will provide quality playing fields, change rooms and drinking water needed to host home games. They will also create a community asset for local clubs and families. Stretton's athletes have earned their place among Queensland's best. Upgraded facilities will let them play at home and shine.