



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mitchelton Youth Club**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (2.38 pm): The Mitchelton Youth Club in Ferry Grove is the premier gymnastics club in Brisbane's north-west and at present it hosts five of the six Olympic gymnastics principals. Today it is home to more than 800 young gymnasts across many feeder suburbs. Unfortunately, the clubhouse is so old and damaged it faces an uncertain future.

In 2022 the club suffered major damage in the rain and flooding event. Later that year the Labor government—and I want to put on record my appreciation to the member for Cairns—provided a \$675,000 grant to the club to replace its damaged roof. When the department inspected the clubhouse to plan the repairs, they learned that the entire facility needed to be replaced rather than repaired. I have been working closely with Rebecca Hack, the Labor candidate for the seat of Ryan, to secure adequate funding to ensure the club's future. At present the clubhouse does not have compliant ceiling heights, toilets or disability access.

With the Olympics just around the corner, now is not the time to backflip on the future of this sport in our community. On 1 August last year I note that the member for Everton—I am pleased that he is in the chamber and I take on board his comments today in his contribution—and now Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games visited the Mitchelton Youth Club for a photo op. Later that week the LNP promised \$250,000 for a business case to upgrade the Mitchelton Youth Club, so it is on the record that the member is going to provide that funding. I look forward to seeing that delivered and not another backflip from the LNP, yet to date the Crisafulli government has not even warmed up. It is still sitting on its hands and the club has not received the funding to progress the planning or business case for the future it desperately needs.

I had the opportunity on Tuesday to speak to Kate from the club to check on any flooding. I also want to thank the Ryan Labor candidate Rebecca Hack and Senator Anthony Chisholm who visited Kate and checked on their wellbeing and the situation at the clubhouse. Not far from the clubhouse is the Gallipoli Barracks in my electorate. I want to put on record my appreciation for the conversation I had with Brigadier Cornelia with respect to my concerns about the wellbeing of the ADF personnel who were injured in that serious accident near Lismore. They are sappers from the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment and I know that they are doing what they are trained for—that is, to help Australians out in difficult times of natural disasters. My well wishes and those of everyone in the chamber goes to them and their families for a speedy recovery.