




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Record of Proceedings, 30 April 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Keppel Electorate, Youth Week; Small Business

 **Mr HUTTON** (Keppel—LNP) (9.09 pm): Last month students from high schools across Keppel came together to give voice to our next generation. It was Youth Week and the students from St Brendan's College, Yeppoon State High School and St Ursula's College joined me in the Keppel electorate office boardroom. These students, each leaders in their own schools, represented their schools with pride.

It was interesting to make them do just a little bit of work for their lunch. They raised the voice of Keppel's young people. The students were asked to identify challenges for the future. I assumed I would hear about future career choices, potentially the environment or maybe just some students hoping to survive year 12. However, universally our young leaders spoke of cost of living—the impact on themselves, their families and their friends. They spoke about housing—the costs of renting, the high price of homes and home ownership. One of the Post-it notes said, 'Will my generation ever be able to afford a home?'

These priorities are not accidents. These priorities are reflections of the conversation that families are having around the kitchen table in our communities. We have experienced a period of inflation and of house price increases. Queensland has the lowest home ownership rates in the country. After a decade of failed interventions, our Crisafulli LNP government has taken decisive action to add supply into the marketplace which provides opportunities for young people for families and individuals within our communities to share in the Australian dream. It is a fresh start that secures Queensland's housing foundations.

Small business is really big business, and in the Keppel electorate we have some 3,926 businesses, of which 3,800 are small and family businesses. For many, small businesses provide their first job. They teach skills. They provide gifts and donations for local charities, for school sports and for events, and they are the reason that so many choose to remain in their community. In May we come together, and I encourage everyone to thank their brilliant small businesses and make sure they support the small local businesses who support their community.