




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Lunar New Year

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.18 pm): I too rise tonight to talk about the Lunar New Year—a time of joy, renewal and cultural appreciation for many across Queensland and beyond. The celebration of the Lunar New Year typically starts with the Spring Festival and ends with the Lantern Festival, lasting for approximately two weeks. In 2025, as we heard from the member for Stretton, we welcomed the Year of the Snake, a symbol in the Chinese zodiac known for its wisdom, elegance and intuition. As we begin this new lunar year, it provides an opportunity to honour the qualities of the snake while celebrating the vibrant traditions of our diverse community.

People born under this sign are often regarded as insightful and strategic. This year encourages us to be thoughtful in our actions while appreciating the beauty of life's complexities. It is also a perfect time to acknowledge the deep cultural heritage of the Chinese community, which has significantly shaped Queensland's identity.

At the start of this year's celebrations, I had the distinct honour of receiving a traditional Ming Dynasty costume from Miss Xia of the Queensland Hanfu Association. This very thoughtful gift not only deepened my appreciation for the cultural significance of the Lunar New Year but also highlighted the rich history embedded in the customs we are celebrating.

Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of attending several events that brought together the community to celebrate the Lunar New Year. On Wednesday, 22 January I was lucky enough to attend the celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, hosted by the Consul-General of the People's Republic of China. This event offered a beautiful opportunity to connect with community members and engage in the celebration of the traditions that make this time of year so special.

On Monday, 27 January I was honoured to attend the Oriental Care Chinese New Year celebration at Landmark, hosted by the Oriental Care organisation. It gave me the opportunity to distribute New Year red envelopes to many of the elderly guests present which is a way of expressing blessings in Chinese traditional culture.

On Tuesday, 28 January I attended the 2025 Lunar New Year celebrations at the Chung Tian Temple, hosted by the Buddha's Light International Association. Going to the temple to offer incense is also an important part of the Lunar New Year celebrations.