



Speech By  
**Peter Russo**


**MEMBER FOR TOOHEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2025

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Club**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (9.14 pm): Today I rise to recognise the incredible efforts of one of my local football clubs, the Souths Sunnybank Rugby League Under 12s. This is the club where Johnathan Thurston played junior Rugby League. The Muspratt Cup is annually hosted by the Burdekin Roosters Junior Rugby League Club, and earlier this month the determined under 12s, a passionate group of young athletes, travelled to North Queensland to take part in the Shane Muspratt Cup in Ayr. Shane Muspratt was born in Ayr and played professional Rugby League for the North Queensland Cowboys and Parramatta Eels. He played a total of 64 games in the NRL.

It was a huge adventure and a wonderful opportunity for the team to test their skills, represent their club and make memories that will stay with them for life. None of it would have been possible without the hard work of their team manager Letitia Law. Thanks to her tireless fundraising and unwavering commitment, the team was able to make the trip. And what a trip it was! On 9 April the team, led by coach Michael Steel—known to everyone as Coach Steely—flew to Townsville to begin their journey. Their base camp was in Wulguru, giving them time to prepare, bond and enjoy some local highlights, including a visit to the Cowboys' team shop. In my opinion, the Cowboys are the best Rugby League team in the NRL competition.

The carnival itself was held in Ayr over two days, and Souths Sunnybank was proud to be the team that travelled the furthest to take part. There was a special connection—Coach Steely's family is from Ayr. His local ties helped the team access training fields, store their gear and feel at home. The team played six touch matches in true North Queensland conditions—hot, humid and challenging—but they played with heart, spirit and respect, representing their club with pride.

A special mention to the players recognised by opponents as players of the match: Jeremy Marsden, Coen Ashton, Tauraa Teinaki, Nate Patterson, Lucah Ekeroma and Kullen Law. We cannot forget the team mascot, Mav the Mischievous Magpie, who brought plenty of cheer from the sidelines. To the coaches, managers, volunteers, families and supporters, thank you. You are the backbone of grassroots sport. Well done to the Souths Sunnybank Under 12s. Your efforts, passion and sportsmanship make your club and your community proud.