



## Speech By **Sean Dillon**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 November 2025

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

#### **Blackall-Tambo Youth Council**

 **Mr DILLON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.09 pm): On the day when the local government minister introduced into this place a bill to empower local councils, it gives me great pleasure to talk about the fantastic initiatives that a community in my electorate is developing to empower youth and local government. I talk about the Blackall-Tambo Youth Council, members of which visited this place yesterday.

I would like to mention them by name and outline some of the fantastic initiatives they are working on and undertaking. Youth Mayor Georgia Duncan is ably supported by her youth councillors: Tate O'Brien, Phoebe Shrimp, Imogen Parry, Amelia Black, Wyatt Kadel, Mikayla Clark and Abigail Allen. Yesterday they spent several hours at parliament not only learning about and being immersed in this wonderful building and its traditions but also meeting and deputising with the Premier of Queensland; the Minister for Local Government, the member for Warrego; the Minister for Police, Dan Purdie—and I thank him very much for his time; and the Minister for Agriculture, Tony Perrett.

The deputations they undertook and the conversations they had belied their age and experience. The youth councillors discussed some serious matters in their community and e-scooter safety was one of them. They were very pleased to know that our government is taking some very necessary and appropriate action to review the safety of those devices and ensure their rollout across regional Queensland is done in a safe and responsible manner. They also sought funding for some projects such as tree-lighting programs, a pump track and some more shade in what is obviously one of the hotter parts of Queensland.

However, they did not come empty-handed. They brought with them a fiscal strategy developed from the work they have undertaken over the several months they have been elected. They are not just sitting around having cups of tea and eating scones; they are travelling across their relatively large local area and raising funds through bake sales, car cleaning and discos, which are not only important social outings for some of their colleagues and elders in their community but also an amazing opportunity for them to understand the value of putting their money where their mouth is.

The youth council has undertaken an incredible advocacy strategy under the very wise stewardship of a prominent mayor in Western Queensland, Mayor Andrew Martin, in this case guided by Councillor Boyd Johnstone and Natalie and Jaimee-Lee from the staff at the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council. I commend them as fine examples of the men and women who, irrespective of politics, will lead this state through their passionate advocacy and their drive to improve their region.

In my last few seconds, I want to mention not only year 12 and year 6 students who are close to graduating or moving on to the next phase of their lives but also the teachers who have ably supported them, including in their endeavours to come to this place. Thank you for what you have done for the fantastic young men and women of Gregory.