




Speech By
Hon. Steve Minnikin
MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 9 December 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Howatson, Mr KL

 **Hon. SJ MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business) (9.15 pm): The Chatsworth community has lost a stalwart. I, along with members of my local LNP branch, was devastated when we found out that our mate and colleague Ken Howatson had passed away recently. Kenneth Lachlan Howatson was born on 9 October 1952 and was only 73 years old. He moved from Brisbane to Melbourne as a child and undertook his schooling there before starting a long career at the Ford Motor Company. Indeed, one of his pride and joys was his late-model Ford Mustang, which was kept in immaculate showroom condition. Ken came back to Brisbane in 1993 and worked in project and service management in the aged-care industry with a variety of companies including TriCare, PresCare, Southern Cross Care and Mercy Health.

Ken's life revolved around service to the local community and he was always giving back. He was a member and past president of the Camp Hill Carindale Lions Club. Ken was heavily involved in their Australia Day citizenship ceremony, which has been successfully running now for many years. Eventually he became involved in the Rotary Club of Carindale and held several board positions including club secretary and club president. For close to 20 years Ken was in charge of fundraising, and he implemented the hugely successful footy seats initiative. This fundraising initiative driven by Ken helped raise approximately \$400,000, according to the Carindale Rotary Club. It is no wonder he was bestowed with a Paul Harris Fellow for his service to the club. Ken was made an honorary member of the Carindale Rotary Club five months ago—a well-deserved honour. They say you cannot tie a busy person down, and my mate was no exception. In his retirement he kept himself busy and became an airport greeter a couple of times per week. He also applied to become a Brisbane greeter at the Queen Street Mall.

My involvement with Ken, of course, was through the local LNP branch and SEC in which Ken held many roles. He was an active member of my Chatsworth campaign team. When we have our next campaign meeting early next year I will be setting aside a seat for Ken. He was well regarded by all LNP members who knew and respected him. Ken was my booth captain at several elections and, along with his great mate Drewe Freeburn, would often assist with roadsiding at the corner of Old Cleveland Road and Scrub Road.

Ken is survived by his loving partner, Jan, his mother and two sisters. He was an AFL tragic, especially the Melbourne Demons. He was a Ford enthusiast and avid music fan, particularly Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin. He played his music on vinyl, the way it should be played, and he liked it loud. He was reliable, hardworking and community minded and had a heart of gold and a wonderful smile. Above all else, he was my mate. Vale, Kenneth Lachlan Howatson. You will be sorely missed, my friend.