



Speech By  
**Terry James**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mulgrave Electorate**

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (2.47 pm): A big shout-out to the Gordonvale RSL club. It has been around eight years now and the members of Gordonvale's cash-strapped RSL club continue with their refurbishment of the Gordon Street hall, which was condemned by engineers in 2017. In 1953 the site was set aside by the diggers to be hallowed ground for veterans forever. That is why they are fighting to save this hall. Currently, the Gordon Street hall cannot be hired out for functions as a source of income until major repairs are completed, hence the Gordonvale RSL subbranch is undertaking a major renovation of the hall. To this end, I want to thank the Premier and Minister for Veterans for recently supporting this quest through a \$125,000 grant for electrical upgrades. The work can now roll on. Ninety per cent of this refurbishment work is volunteered every Saturday morning by members whose average age is 75. They have members who are painters, carpenters, electricians and steelworkers helping. They will require more funding to complete this million-dollar refurb, as sausage sizzles just do not cut the mustard anymore. I wish them well and look forward to assisting the subbranch with finalising this refurbishment.

Yesterday there was a lot of discussion about 50-cent fares. Members, spare a thought for the discrete Aboriginal community of Yarrabah in my electorate which is 30 kilometres from Gordonvale and yet still does not have a public transport system for residents to easily travel to the nearest affordable supermarket in Gordonvale or Cairns, 52 kilometres away, to access the commercial, social and health services they require. Yarrabah has a relatively new multimillion dollar public jetty. It is 2½ years old. At the opening the previous member said—

As Queensland's largest Indigenous community, it was important that the area had the right access and could capitalise on the economic opportunities of the region.

As the new member, I was thinking of an ecotourism venture or maybe a future public ferry service to Cairns to take advantage of the 50-cent fares, but that was not to be. Even though it was built on time and on budget by the previous Labor government, it is not fit for purpose. It is not long enough to access deep water and is not suitable for large vessels, only small dinghy access. It is now a very expensive fishing jetty—another Labor legacy. To this end, Kinetic, Australia's biggest bus operator, is planning the Yarrabah community bus pilot proposal, which will trial—

*(Time expired)*