




Speech By
Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich West Electorate, Railway History

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.11 pm): Ipswich West has a proud and rich railway history that remains close to the hearts of many in the community. It is no surprise that people love seeing trains from days gone by as they remind us of Queensland's pioneering spirit. Recently, along with the Deputy Speaker, I had the privilege of attending the 160th anniversary of the first train to leave Ipswich in 1865.

In partnership with the Australian Railway Historical Society, a special steam train travelled from the North Ipswich rail yards to Queensland's first railway station at Grandchester, formerly known as Bigge's Camp. The Australian Railway Historical Society, ably led by the Queensland division president, Mr Steve Lamprecht, is a dedicated group of volunteers committed to preserving our railway heritage. I congratulate them all for their tireless work.

The North Ipswich Railway Workshops, established in 1864, were Queensland's first railway workshops and an essential part of the state's first railway line from Ipswich to the Darling Downs. The line from Ipswich to Grandchester opened in 1865 and was expanded by 1885. These workshops sit within my electorate and are a vital part of our history.

Recently I advised the government on why the community strongly opposes any sale of this historic land to developers. This site represents more than railway history; it carries deep wartime significance as well. In 1915 workshop employees gathered to honour the 300 men who left to serve in World War I. Sadly, 28 of those men were killed, with more dying in service. The Ipswich Railway Workshops War Memorial, unveiled in 1919, stands as a lasting tribute to their sacrifice.

The workshops also created a unique community and workplace culture. Workers took pride in their environment, establishing cooperative ventures, sporting clubs and even personal gardens, turning an industrial site into a place of belonging. Preserving this history is vital. The Queensland Museum currently manages the front part of the site, while Queensland Rail continues to operate behind it. This remains the oldest continuously operating railway workshop in Australia. Ipswich's railway legacy is a treasure we must protect. I urge the government to honour and safeguard this heritage for generations to come.