




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE
COMMITTEE**

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.57 pm): I want to begin by thanking all the community volunteers, groups and organisations that took the time to provide a stakeholder submission. I also want to acknowledge some of the incredible volunteers and community groups who make such a difference every day across the northside: P&C and P&F members of our local schools; Aspley Classes for Seniors, offering everything from computer literacy to crochet, creating a space where older residents can stay active, connected and learning; the Aspley branch of National Seniors Australia, a not-for-profit membership and advocacy network for older locals; Aspley View Club, whose partnership with the Smith Family supports children's education—and they have a great laugh at the Christmas party every year; the Brisbane Inner North Lions Club, whose community service is felt across the northside; Carseldine Probus Club, providing friendship and fellowship for retired and semi-retired locals; Geebung Meals on Wheels, delivering not just meals but care and connection in the local area; and Ridley Road Community Men's Shed, a place of skill-sharing, support and mateship.

Let us not forget the coaches, parents, managers and volunteers across our fantastic sporting clubs—I will leave some out as I cannot reference all of them. They include Little Athletics who can always do with more parent volunteers—the local group down the road do a fantastic job and I encourage anyone to join up if they are able to help out; the volunteers who keep our bowls clubs, Aspley Memorial Bowls Club and Geebung Bowls Club, thriving and running every single day; and our local church group volunteers who on not only weekends but also throughout the week do wonderful work in our community.

To every single volunteer in our community, thank you. What you do matters. This list only scratches the surface of the countless locals who give back to their club, group or organisation and who have an immeasurable impact on our community.

Turning now to the inquiry itself, despite the committee holding 15 public hearings and receiving more than 500 written submissions, the government's response has been to 'support all recommendations in principle, subject to further investigation'. It is worth remembering that this inquiry was the LNP's 100-day plan commitment. Here we are over 490 days into this government and what have they actually delivered? Once again, it appears the government's solution is to simply establish another panel. One can only hope the ministerial advisory panel does not become yet another talkfest. Throughout the inquiry, the committee heard many thoughtful and practical suggestions.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mellish, adjourned.