




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Sport and Recreation

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.06 pm): Four days ago Queensland Sport and Recreation announced on its Facebook page that it would be renamed the Department of Sport, and I table that post.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 21 March 2026, from the Facebook page of Queensland Sport and Recreation, in relation to the page's renaming to 'Queensland Department of Sport' [418](#).

Their rationale is that sport in Queensland is bigger than ever, and they are right: sport is worth celebrating. This rebrand raises serious questions for me about what and who gets left behind in the pursuit of high-performance sport. The umbrella term 'recreation' refers to non-competitive activity. It includes walking groups, cycling, bushwalking, trail running, paddling, and mountain biking. It includes the work of organisations like Girl Guides, Scouts Queensland, Queensland Walks, Outdoors Queensland and Bicycle Queensland—groups that quietly, consistently keep people active every day. Recreation is where participation begins. It is where confidence builds. It is where people who might never see themselves as athletes find movement and find community and belonging, and it is the pipeline for many into formal sport.

I have questions for the sports minister. What focus does recreation now have in your department? What does the future hold for recreation organisations currently in receipt of state government funding, many of which are approaching renewal? Will their funding be renewed? Will organisations like Scouts and Girl Guides continue to be eligible for Play On! vouchers? What about emerging activities like trail running, which is currently seeking Olympic recognition ahead of Brisbane 2032? Who is backing them under this new divisional model? Was this decision to erase a business unit that is responsible for keeping thousands of Queensland women and girls active driven by the minister? Whistleblowers tell me that the draft sports strategy, which is now four months overdue, has already dropped references to recreation altogether, so I ask: what consultation was undertaken with the sector on this?

Queensland should absolutely celebrate elite sport, but we cannot achieve high performance without high participation, and recreation sits at the base of the participation pyramid. This House deserves clarity on whether the government understands that or is prepared to lose it at the very time we are preparing our state for the international sporting stage.

I also want to give a shout-out to the great folk of Rockhampton and Mount Morgan. I had the opportunity to travel there with the shadow treasurer recently. We had a women's lunch with professional women talking about issues around energy, health and community safety. It was a fantastic lunch. I thank the sports groups who met with us to talk about their growing infrastructure investment and coordination.

Mr G Kelly interjected.

Ms BUSH: Yes, we also got a mention from local influencer Gloria Kelly the Chook, who did not like two Labor women supporting their local coffee shop in Mount Morgan, which was odd because all the locals had really welcomed us there. On further inspection, it seems that Gloria Kelly the Chook appears to be no other than the member for Mirani himself, who is posting under a second profile using his chicken's name and then sharing the chicken's content onto his MP account. It is amazing what some people will do for engagement. To paraphrase another esteemed social media user: 'Fantastic. Well done. Great move, Glen.'

(Time expired)