

*Remarques Incorporated
by hand. 9/10/03*

Ministerial Statement by the Premier



Mr Speaker ..

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

the Brisbane Lions have again done themselves ^{the} this city
- and state proud.

Congratulation ^{TO} ~~belong with~~ them

Their win in the AFL Grand Final at the MCG the
Saturday before last was ^{again another} memorable
moment ~~for~~ this State's sporting history.

It was an honour ~~to~~ ^{to} have the State Council reception in King George Square & a ~~band~~ ^{techer} parade ^{for the Lions.}

They have also done their band of Fitzroy Lions fans in
Melbourne proud.

Right from the very start at 2.30pm on Saturday
September 27 it was obvious they were primed to claim
another title.

By quarter time it was obvious they were the better team.

By half time the Collingwood fans were virtually
silenced - and by three quarter time some of them were
even doing the unthinkable – heading home.

The win cements the Lions and Australian Football's
standing in this State.

No longer is it just a league and union home for the
winter football codes – Australian football truly is now a
national code.

I believe the Lions win was even more exciting because so many of the players were home grown talent - such as the Captain Michael Voss, Jason Akermanis, Clarke Keating, Mal Michael, Robbie Copeland and Marcus Ashcroft

Television ratings and spectator numbers this year at the Gabba attest ever-increasing support levels.

A packed King George Square last Tuesday also yells that Brisbane is Lions territory.

Lions coach Leigh Matthews and skipper Michael Voss have set new standards when it comes to professionalism

The coming season will be a tough one if they are to add to the threeppeat, but with Matthews and Voss and I hope the majority of the team remaining I am confident that a fourpeat is distinctly possible.

While addressing successful Queensland sportspeople I want today to also praise Brisbane's John Lang for coaching the Penrith Panthers to win Sunday night's NRL decider against the Roosters.

It was one of the best games of rugby league seen for years.

John Lang has been a sentimental Queenslander for many years as both player and coach and he deserves every praise for the Panthers great win.

As does Darren Lockyer on his selection as the Kangaroo captain for the upcoming Test and tour.