



NORTHERN TERRITORY
***of* AUSTRALIA**

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Member for Fong Lim

HANSARD EXTRACT

LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING – BERRIMAH
NORTHCREST & STUART PARK

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This extract is taken from the Official Hansard of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

title. His dedication to first aid, leadership and teamwork are demonstrated by his regular contributions to St John events and volunteering in the community. Liam's leadership extends far beyond St John, having served as a junior school captain. He visited the Governor-General. A brown-advanced belt in Tang Soo Do and a former competitive swimmer, Liam's well-rounded achievements highlight his commitment to personal growth and community service.

Congratulations to the Community Event of the Year which recognises the achievements of a group or entire community. This award went to the Bike You BBQ Bike Ride, which is run by Tim Walker. Bike You is a rural business where you learn to ride a motorbike safely. You can go there on a Thursday afternoon with your registered bike and go for a trail ride out the back of Howard Springs, come back and then have a barbecue.

This event has made a significant impact on the community by offering a welcoming space for individuals, particularly men, to connect through a shared passion of riding dirt bikes. Through these weekly events, Bike You fosters an inclusive environment where you can come together, build relationships and engage in important conversations, especially about mental health. We all know that men perhaps do not talk about this as much as they should; however, when you are there with a group of likeminded people you open up, and those conversations might help to save a life. The team, led by Tim Walker, are strong advocates for men's mental health, using their initiative on their weekly ride to provide a supportive space for mental health—which is a gap in the rural area. By promoting connection and offering a safe outlet for conversations, Bike You is helping the community.

I have known Tim for many years. I see him in the street and he comes in and has a chat. I am organising to go on one of those bike rides to check it out and see what is going on. I am going through a midlife crisis, so I will get into motorbike riding. We will see how that works out. I will go there and learn from the professionals. Being able to go there and talk to local men and young people is about that community safety and spirit.

I congratulate Tim on his barbecues and Bike You.

Dr RAHMAN (Fong Lim): Madam Speaker, a strength of the CLP in recent years has been its commitment to local engagement and problem-solving. That has been led by the Chief Minister in setting the standard for maintaining our accessibility to the community. People see this displayed in our commitment to attending multicultural events, mobile offices during parliamentary sittings and the electorate events that we collectively attend.

A related strength has been the willingness of our team to work together in support of problem-solving at all scales. I say 'all scales' because whilst there are big issues to tackle in this place, there are also the everyday local issues which are no less important. I am fortunate to have ministerial colleagues who have been supporting me with local problem-solving in the Fong Lim electorate. Tonight I will draw attention to a small number of things we have been working on in the expansive Fong Lim electorate, which covers 10 suburbs, focusing on Berrimah Northcrest and Stuart Park.

As I have pointed out on a number of occasions Berrimah Northcrest is a place replete with potential, but it is also filled with challenges whilst it works towards achieving critical mass as a development. It has an absence of a postal service and council services, water pressure problems, no supermarket and no prospect of local schools. We cannot deal with those things overnight, but we are trying to make strides in the right direction for the people of Berrimah Northcrest. You have to start somewhere, and we decided to start with bus services.

The CLP government is actively progressing this task to make it easier for parents and students to get to and from school every day, noting that very few of the kids who live in Berrimah Northcrest go to Haileybury; most of them go to schools in the northern suburbs and, until this point, have been disconnected from those schools.

I am grateful to the Minister for Logistics and Infrastructure and his staff for the efficiency they have displayed in helping us get to the point where we are now conducting consultations to help get bus services for a range of kids living in that area.

Consultation for students in Northcrest is officially underway and closes this Friday. We now have route 100 leaving from Reuben Avenue in the middle of Berrimah Northcrest for kids to get to Darwin High School and Darwin Middle School. It also detours through Nightcliff.

A concerned parent in that electorate, Kieran Jones—I am sure he will not mind me naming him—was good enough to collect some of the information on the ground that I could work with to help us move things forward so that now his kid can get to and from school in Nightcliff every day.

Similarly, there are kids living in Berrimah Northcrest for whom the closest primary school is in the electorate of Karama at Manunda Terrace Primary School, where I went to primary school, and at Karama Primary School, where I went to Transition. We now have route 206 leaving from Berrimah Northcrest to go to Manunda and Karama Primary and on to Sanderson Middle School and Dripstone Middle School.

These are small things in the context of all the big issues we discuss in this place, but these are the things that really matter to people. This government prides itself on staying engaged with the local community. The new routes are anticipated to commence on 3 March, all things going well. Likewise, we are working on Berrimah Northcrest in its totality. Speed limit changes on Berrimah Road have been implemented, which we hope will improve pedestrian safety for all those kids who cross the road to go to Haileybury Rendall School.

I have maintained that I am committed to helping this area actualise its potential as a suburban haven for young families, and I mean that sincerely. For all our talk about stimulating housing development, population growth and housing supply, that is one of the areas which must be focused on and supported in order for us to create places for young aspirational families to get a leg up. I put the Assembly on notice that, in conjunction with the people of Berrimah Northcrest, in the coming months I will tackle council affiliation, which should long ago have been resolved for Berrimah Northcrest.

On the matter of bus routes, Stuart Park similarly had a bus servicing Stuart Park Primary School which did not go through Stuart Park. I could not believe that. It seems cheeky in adjournment to have a pot shot at my predecessor, but I was flabbergasted that Stuart Park, being the enormous suburb that it is, had a school bus that did not take half of the kids in Stuart Park to their school.

I am pleased to say that the route 464 bus, which used to cover Defence areas through Woolner and Bayview, will now extend to cover Tipperary Waters and the southern part of Stuart Park from Dinah Beach Road up, including Eden Street, Mary Street, Meigs Crescent, Gothenburg Crescent, Margaret Street, Duke Street, Frances Bay Drive, Flinders Drive, Ashley Street, Graham Street and Nudl Street. That is dozens of families with little kids with little legs who will have an easier commute.

On a related note, Stuart Park Primary School has been in desperate need of an essential security upgrade which should have been covered by minor works rectification years ago, but it was not due to whatever mismanagement took place. I am pleased to report that we have found the funds for and completed the work on essential security upgrades for Stuart Park Primary School to improve the locks and doors for the upper primary school and the main office. That work was all completed in time for the start of the year.

I am indebted to the minister for Education and her staff for ensuring that work was completed in a timely and efficient manner. I applaud the decisiveness with which she tackled the issue. There have been security issues at that school over a period of time, with doors that simply do not lock and cannot be opened from both sides. These are the essential and enabling infrastructure upgrades that somehow we lost sight of whilst we have been focused on the big-picture stuff. Thank you to the Minister for Education and Training for assisting me to help the people of Stuart Park Primary School in that regard.

I will focus on addressing local infrastructure issues, including enabling infrastructure affecting Stuart Park and, by extension, the CBD. As I have mentioned in this House several times, metaphorically speaking the neck of the body of the Northern Territory is the Stuart Park/Stuart Highway precinct leading into the CBD, which is the head of the Northern Territory. Without a strong neck you cannot have a strong head that supports itself. Over the next three years I will be championing the reinvigoration of that area focused on the Stuart Park high street. I will begin public consultations on that over the coming months with all stakeholders and the community, in conjunction with my ministerial colleagues who have been exceedingly helpful and supportive.

Plans to assist Dinah Beach Cruising Yacht Association (Dinah Beach Yacht Club)—or for those who are more familiar, the Grotty Yachty—will commence over the coming months. Do visit. If you have not been there for a while, it ain't the Grotty Yachty anymore! It is a beautiful seaside venue with excellent food, regular live music and a great atmosphere. I freely declare that I am proud to be the new patron.

Permit me to share this personal indulgence: the CLP wing went on a Wednesday night in the November sittings to have 'wings for the wing'. You will not find finer chicken wings anywhere other than those at the

Dinah Beach Yacht Club. I extend an open offer to the opposition and crossbenchers to join me at Dinah Beach for chicken wings on any given Wednesday.

In closing I note that I will never have the vigour and valour of the Members for Drysdale and Blain with their Palmerston lawnmowing service. My life's aspiration is simply to do well enough so that I never have to mow a lawn again in my life. I have not managed to realise that aspiration to this point. Notwithstanding that, my commitment to the people of Fong Lim is that I will do my best to maintain the CLP's commitment to local engagement and problem-solving.

Mr YOUNG (Daly): Madam Speaker, I will take up the offer from the Member for Fong Lim to go to the Dinah Beach club to have chicken wings. I love chicken wings. I will reach out at some stage during the week, and we might head down there.

I place on the public record my congratulations to the recent Australia Day Award winners in the Daly electorate. Many members have recipients and award winners in their electorates, so I am sure we will hear more about that. The Citizen and Student Citizen Awards celebrate the remarkable efforts of Territorians who inspire us and contribute to our community every day.

I congratulate our wonderful Student Citizen Award winners: Kevin Commans, Adelaide River School; Leon Selems, Batchelor Area School; Terran Ray, Berry Springs Primary School; Bridie Lock-Grimes, Dundee Beach School; and Brendon Saunders from Tipperary Station School.

I congratulate all our Daly Citizen of the Year recipients. I will start with Belyuen community near where I live; I am down the road. Young Citizen of the Year Sally-Anne Nilco has connections to Wadeye. Many residents from Belyuen have that connection. Congratulations on being the Young Citizen of the Year. The Citizen of the Year is Denise Mclean and the Senior Citizen of the Year is Trudy Mardi. Congratulations.

Congratulations to the Coomalie region winners. The Young Citizen of the Year is Blake Harris-Jacobs. The Citizen of the Year is the wonderful Mary Ashley, who organises Friday church catch-ups on a fortnightly basis. She usually invites service providers such as CatholicCare and Anglicare to give a presentation to the constituents of Batchelor and the region. Congratulations, Mary; I look forward to catching up with you soon.

The Community Event of the Year—I know the Member for Katherine goes to this on a yearly basis—is the Rosella Festival in Adelaide River. It is a wonderful festival where we pick up different rosella or chilli jams. Congratulations to the Rosella Festival organisers in Adelaide River.

The wonderful Prue King is the Senior Citizen of the Year. She helps organise the markets and sells books at her stall. I usually purchase a book when I see her. She is also a figure in the Batchelor community. Congratulations, Prue; your award is well deserved.

I had the pleasure of going to Nauiyu community (Daly River) last week to attend the morning tea and hand out the awards. The Young Citizen of the Year is Danzel Green. He is doing amazing things. He completed Year 12 and has joined the Army. Member for Drysdale, I know that is something close to your heart. The Member for Arafura was also in the Army. Danzel is inspiring people from Nauiyu community and the region, demonstrating what can be achieved when people finish school. The Citizen of the Year is Janine Cooper. The Community Event of the Year is the Community Wellbeing event hosted by St Francis Xavier Catholic School and Patrick Fox. Congratulations to all the award winners.

The Pine Creek Citizen of the Year is Sam Forwood. I am sure many CLP members know Sam—I see the Member for Katherine just gave a fist pump for Sam—and everyone in Pine Creek knows him. One thing I respect about Sam is last year I sat with him at the seniors' Christmas dinner in Pine Creek—speaking about politics, he is a CLP member and he helped the candidate running against me—and it was heartening to put aside the politics, have dinner and talk about the issues of Pine Creek. We know there is a time for the politics to come. Congratulations, Sam; it is a well-deserved award.

In Litchfield—the Deputy Chief Minister mentioned this, but I will go through it again because it is important—the Young Citizen of the Year is Liam Fischer; the Citizens of the Year are Valerie Wilkie and Eric Chalmers and the Community Event of the Year is the Bike You BBQ Bike Ride. Congratulations.

I turn to my home community, Wagait Beach. Congratulations to the Young Citizen of the Year, Georgia (Alex) Bowers. The Citizen of the Year is Maureen Chalmers, whom we refer to as Molly. She is of Irish heritage and a delight to be around. She is hilarious and always playing tricks on people. We are never sure what she will come up with, but she always keeps us on our toes. Congratulations, Molly.