



Speech By
Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2016

ADJOURNMENT

de Wit, Councillor M



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (10.22 pm): Tonight I rise to pay tribute to Councillor Margaret de Wit, who for 19 years was the councillor for the ward of Pullenvale. Margaret retired from the Brisbane City Council on 19 March 2016 after first being elected to council in March 1997.

Prior to becoming the councillor for Pullenvale, Margaret worked in the not-for-profit sector as a volunteer at St Vincent de Paul. Then for several years she worked as a community liaison manager for BoysTown Family Care. This was after a career of nearly 20 years with Telecom Australia, now Telstra. At the time of leaving, she was the state manager for corporate services. These past positions were to hold Margaret in great stead as she started out on a new career as a councillor for the ward of Pullenvale.

Margaret and her husband, Hank, live in Bellbowrie in the heart of the ward of Pullenvale. Margaret has been a tireless and passionate worker for the residents of the Pullenvale ward. She has delivered many community initiatives during the past 19 years. She is the patron of many local organisations including Meals on Wheels, the Moggill Cricket Club, the Bellbowrie sports club and the Bellbowrie Swimming Club. Margaret is also an active participant with local environment groups including the Pullen Pullen Catchment Group, which she founded. She is also an active member of the Kenmore Chamber of Commerce and the Anglican Church and she is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Kenmore.

After years of delay and due to the hard work and lobbying of former councillor de Wit, the Kenmore Library opened its doors in December 2010 with approximately 50,000 items at the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. For her services to the community, Margaret has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award by the Rotary Club of Karana Downs and a second Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Club of Kenmore.

Councillor de Wit has also been the president of the Local Government Association of Queensland, the first woman to hold the position in the 116-year history of the association. As the Local Government Association of Queensland president, Margaret was also a director of the Australian Local Government Association. During her time as a councillor, Margaret has held the position of chairman of the Brisbane City Council, a position similar to the Speaker of the House. She has also held the portfolio of Public and Active Transport and then Infrastructure since 2008.

I have known Councillor Margaret de Wit for nearly 20 years, from when I was a member of the University of Queensland Liberal student club. Since being elected as the state member for Moggill in 2015 it has been my pleasure to work alongside Margaret many times and see the esteem in which she is held by her local community. I add my vote of thanks to the long list of local residents who have benefited from her 19 years as a councillor for Pullenvale. I wish both her and her husband, Hank, a very long and happy retirement. I thank them both for their dedication and service over many years to the Liberal Party, the Liberal National Party and their local community in the western suburbs of Brisbane.