



STATEMENT FROM THE MEMBER FOR RANKIN, CRAIG EMERSON

Opening of Logan Central Library, Logan Central

31 August 2011

I would like to acknowledge the Yugambeh and the Jaggera peoples, the traditional custodians of this land, and pay my respects to their elders past and present.

I also acknowledge Cr Pam Parker, Mayor, Logan City Council, Cr Russell Lutton, Deputy Mayor, Logan City Council and Desley Scott, Member for Woodridge, Logan City Councillors, Aunty Betty, ladies and gentlemen.

As a long-time member of Craig's staff, he has asked that I convey the following message.

I have been requested at very short notice to represent the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, at a meeting convened in Paris tomorrow by French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, the British Prime Minister, David Cameron and the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton in relation to the removal of the Gaddafi regime in Libya. The meeting is about the reconstruction of Libya under the National Transition Council.

This is a significant world event and, since Australia took a lead in moves to establish a non-fly zone over Libya to limit Gaddafi aerial attacks on the rebel forces, it is important that Australia attend the meeting.

This has unfortunately meant that I am unable to attend the much-awaited opening of the new library here at Logan Central.

Our vibrant city is home to more than 280,000 people from more than 185 different cultures and has become known as one of the most diverse cities in Australia.

Not surprisingly, Logan is a popular place to live and our community continues to grow and expand.

With the continued growth of our population the need for improved infrastructure and facilities to cater for the increasing needs of the community arose.

And the new upgraded Logan Central Library is a great example of catering for that need.

We have this fantastic new facility that meets the needs of the community and that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Reflecting back to the beginning of this year - as Queenslanders and as Australians - we were taking in the devastation of communities caused by the Queensland Floods.

As tradesmen took up the call to help out to get communities back to a relatively normal life, finishing the new library was put back.

It shows the resilience of the Logan community that we are here - albeit a little later than anticipated - to celebrate the opening of our new library.

The Logan Central Library was completed in February of this year and I'm told that since it opened, over 26,000 local and regional residents have used the various library services each month.

The new library offers a range of resources from books to videos, local collections to the internet.

It also offers a place for our community groups to meet, to work, to learn and more importantly to enjoy – as a social hub for storytelling, for book discussion groups, for showcasing local artists.

This facility has been made possible with funding from the Australian Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

The Australian Government's funding contributed to the planning stage - the first step towards this new library development, the architectural and project management work and building the library's foundations with site redevelopment and construction.

At the core of this program is a whole-of-government approach to regional development – working with local governments to find local solutions to local challenges.

This project is a great example of local government identifying a community need and how we can work together to meet this need.

The Australian Government is pleased to have provided \$1,254,000 to the project.

We are proud to have partnered with the Logan City Council to deliver a more accessible facility; with more customised library services; and more community meeting and business space; to meet the unique and diverse needs of this growing Logan community and its neighbouring areas.

By working together we can provide better services for regional Australia, which is why we're so committed to the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

This Program has delivered over \$6.8 million worth of community infrastructure projects to the Logan City Council – addressing local needs and supporting jobs along the way.

The Program has also delivered over \$4.6 million to the electorate of Rankin, over \$1.4 million to the electorate of Wright and over \$6.5 to the electorate of Forde – the three electorates in which Logan City falls.

I am told that 60 jobs were created for architects, project managers, and construction crews along with their sub-contractors during the construction phase of this project and several additional library staff have been appointed to meet the greater demand on the Logan Central Library's library services.

Similarly, thousands of jobs around the country are being supported through the building of great community facilities like these.

The Australian Government is acting decisively and working with local communities to support jobs and improve local infrastructure into the future.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this project. You can be proud that you have created fantastic facilities that will serve the community for years to come.

Thank you.