



Speech by

Mr ROB MITCHELL

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard 6 August 1998

FANFARE 98

Mr MITCHELL (Charters Towers—NPA) (7.15 p.m.): At lunchtime today I had the pleasure to be downtown to listen to the Charters Towers High School Stage Band performing in the Queen Street Mall. The band has been in Brisbane participating in Fanfare 98, competing against another 10 schools from all over the State. The band performed this morning at the Conservatorium of Music at South Bank, but unfortunately it was unsuccessful in reaching the final, which is to be held tomorrow night at the Concert Hall. The band was successful in winning the northern zone in June to gain a place in the State finals. I am very proud—as I believe all people of Charters Towers are—of the high school band's achievements. This is the first time that a band from Charters Towers has ever won the northern zone.

One really has to hand it to those young people for the amount of time and effort—something like six months—that they put into preparing for Fanfare 98. It has definitely been a tremendous experience for all of those kids from Charters Towers. In fact, a good percentage of them had never flown in an aeroplane, and a few of them had never been to Brisbane. So one can understand the excitement that those young people must be feeling to be here this week participating in Fanfare 98.

Fanfare 98 is an initiative of Education Queensland for all Queensland schools to compete in the State Festival of Bands and Orchestras. I hope that this initiative will be continued in the future. Apparently it is held every two years, and it gives schools such as the Charters Towers High School and other schools throughout the State a chance to be a part of the competition.

I wish to make a special mention of the Charters Towers High School Stage Band's conductor, Mrs Rachel Tate, who is the only music teacher for all the primary schools and the high school in Charters Towers. Mrs Tate handled all the band rehearsals outside school hours over the past six months. I can guarantee that, because my daughter participated——

Time expired.
