



Speech by

**DESLEY BOYLE**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Hansard 10 March 1999

**ELECTORATE OF CAIRNS**

**Ms BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.18 a.m.): I am pleased to inform members of this House that tomorrow is the 100th anniversary of the election of the first Labor member to the seat of Cairns. Mr Thomas Givens of the Australian Labor Party was elected as the member for Cairns on 11 March 1899, and served until 11 March 1902. In 1904 he became a senator and served the people of Queensland in this role for 24 years.

Labor's election to the seat of Cairns in March of 1899 was nine months ahead of the proud day in December of that year when the first-ever Labor Government was elected—the first Labor Government not only in Queensland but in Australia. For only two and a half of these 100 years has the seat of Cairns been held by a non-Labor representative. That was an Independent member who served for the period 1902 to 1904. Over this century, the seat of Cairns has boasted its share of illustrious members: Premier William McCormack, Attorney-General John O'Keefe and my predecessor, Treasurer Keith De Lacy. I also recognise the longest serving of all the members for Cairns, Mr Ray Jones.

I suggest to the House that this long history of Labor in Cairns reflects the characteristically pioneering and progressive people from diverse cultural backgrounds who have settled and developed our northern city—a proud history for us in Cairns and for the ALP. Tomorrow, 11 March, we celebrate this history. I salute all those who have gone before me as members for Cairns and the people who over this century have contributed to making Cairns the important, vibrant tropical city it is today.

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