



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 15 September 1999

CAIRNS AMATEURS RACE MEETING

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (11.28 p.m.): I am pleased to inform members of the House that last weekend in Cairns the Amateurs Race Meeting was held—an annual event of some tremendous style; a wild and wonderful event that we in Cairns have become well used to over the past 40 or so years. It is at heart a race meeting and, I am pleased to say, each year the prize money is growing, and it is considerable. Of course, it is a very important race meeting to the punters, to the bookies, to the TAB, to the horse owners and to the jockeys themselves. However, many other events associated with the race meeting draw all of us into having such a very good time that, on the following Monday, we are left exhausted.

An important element of the race meeting is fashions on the field, which is held on Friday and Saturday. At that event, women not only from Cairns but also from other places throughout Australia parade with such elegance, such colour, such initiative and such style. I must say that I have noticed that many of the gentlemen are also very well attired. Entertainment abounds, sponsors abound and visitors from all around our fair country come to Cairns for the race meeting. They rely on this particular weekend to be a break from the hurly-burly of Sydney and Melbourne. Of course, the locals also have a good time. I am pleased to report that this year they were there in their thousands, including young people, joining in the spirit of the race meeting. The race meeting provides an \$8m injection into the local economy. It creates wonderful business for Cairns and provides a great parade by sponsors, to whom we are indebted.

The Governor is always present at the race meeting. I am pleased to say that the Premier and Deputy Premier were present and I give recognition that the Leader of the Opposition is also a frequent attender. However, in the end it is Sir Sydney Williams and Lady Williams and the committee whom we have to thank for this wonderful event that I am sure will live on year after year after year as truly part of the style and life of Cairns.
