



Speech by

**Dr LESLEY CLARK**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Hansard 15 April 1999

#### **CAIRNS CELEBRATION OF FILM**

**Dr CLARK** (Barron River—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): The potential of the film and television industry to contribute to the regional economy of far-north Queensland is enormous and I am committed to fostering its successful development by working closely with the Department of State Development, the Pacific Film and Television Commission and the local industry. During the last sitting of Parliament I tabled a CD-ROM produced by the Far North Queensland Film and Television Association with financial assistance from the Department of State Development which promoted far-north Queensland as a location for film production.

Today, I am pleased to announce a further example of the Government's commitment to our growing film industry. The Pacific Film and Television Commission yesterday confirmed that it will be providing an amount of \$15,000 towards the staging of the second Cairns Celebration of Film, which will contribute significantly to the development of screen culture in our region and be a major attraction for locals and visitors alike.

A vibrant blend of films, cultural events and industry development initiatives, the Cairns Celebration of Film will help consolidate the film industry's role in Cairns and the region. Timed to fill something of a traditional void in entertainment and commercial activity, the 1999 Cairns Celebration of Film will build on a strong foundation laid last year when the festival not only proved popular with movie goers but also provided a significant economic fillip for the region.

A wide variety of films will again be combined with cultural evenings of food and festivities and professional development workshops to engage the local community in an industry which has a great future in Cairns. The festival will be held from 22 April to 2 May. I commend the festival director and driving force behind the event, Andrew Pak Poy, for his enthusiasm, expertise and commitment, and I wish the festival every success.

The Cairns Celebration of Film will become an annual event and I am supporting its bid for additional and ongoing funding as part of a new PFTC initiative for a regional film festival program to be held in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Toowoomba/Warwick and Gold Coast. The Arts Minister, Matt Foley, has indicated his strong support for this regional film festival initiative and I commend the Minister for his commitment to the Queensland film industry.

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