



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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GREAT SOUTH PACIFIC EXPRESS

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (10.18 a.m.): Last Friday, Townsville was the venue for a celebration of a different kind. The construction and completion of the Great South Pacific Express has been hailed as an icon for Australian tourism. To celebrate its completion, the red carpet was rolled out and the Queensland Rail workers who built the train were invited to enjoy their labours. The workers and their families spent six hours travelling from Townsville to Charters Towers and back again enjoying the luxury of first-class travel. What an achievement and how fantastic for QR to share in the deep pride felt by the workers in the building of the Great South Pacific Express by including them in the festivities! How many other employers consider their work force with such a degree of gratitude and praise? The recognition of a job well done is a necessary ingredient of any successful enterprise, and to achieve team spirit at the same time is worthy of congratulation. Luxury of this kind is not often experienced by railway workers. Their budgets could never cater for such lavishness, despite the fact that they created it, so the Townsville railway workers were saluted with a memorable trip to celebrate their efforts.

To further highlight this international achievement, the Premier, Peter Beattie, and the Transport and Main Roads Minister, Steve Bredhauer, attended the function after a ride on the new tourist train from Stuart to Townsville. Amid the feelings of festivity and celebration was a unanimous appreciation by guests, employers and employees of an incredible job well done, further exemplifying the can do attitudes of Queenslanders and this Government.
