



Speech by

Mr TIM MULHERIN

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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MACKAY POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB

Mr MULHERIN (Mackay—ALP) (11.15 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak about a recent announcement, which I believe will have far-reaching benefits to the Mackay community. The Mackay Police Citizens Youth Club is to be transformed by a major \$1m development project, which will be jointly funded by the State Labor Government and the Mackay City Council. Last Monday, it was my great pleasure to announce jointly with the Mayor of the Mackay City Council, Julie Boyd, that funding for the upgrade had been approved by both the State Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing and the council.

The development will expand the club's present facilities and include a multipurpose indoor sports stadium and changing rooms, meeting rooms, computer and games area, a Pulse Youth Space that includes stage and band practice areas, and new canteen and office facilities. The development of the centre with \$500,000 each in funding from the Mackay City Council and the State Government demonstrates clearly what can be achieved with a joint Government approach.

It is hoped that work on the upgrade will commence in July and, allowing for six months' construction time, it is anticipated that the new complex will be open early in 2000. The Mackay PCYC is located in a fast-growing area serving the suburbs of Andergrove, Beaconsfield and North Mackay, with direct access to other developing areas of Northview, Mount Pleasant and the northern beaches.

The Mackay PCYC is really the smallest PCYC club in the State, yet it boasts activities and attendance figures that rank in the top five in Queensland. In 1998, the club had some 807 members and attracted over 2,700 attendances every month, making it one of the largest community groups in Mackay.

The upgrade of the Mackay PCYC is one of the first projects to be granted under the Labor Government's new Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program. I would like to place on this record my sincere thanks to Sports Minister, Bob Gibbs, who believes that the upgrade of the Mackay PCYC is an important and worthwhile project. He believes, as I do, that the expanded centre will be able to provide an even better range of sporting and recreational opportunities for the thousands of young Mackay people who use it each year.

The PCYC is one of Mackay's most important assets and contributes much to the sporting and character development of our youth. The Mackay PCYC was first established in 1989 in premises in Bundesen Street, North Mackay, and in 1992 opened a clubhouse on council-leased land in Norris Road, North Mackay, where the club is still situated. The Mackay PCYC activities include tae kwon do, bicycle and driver education, learn to drive courses, playgroup, band practice, blue light discos, a mobile activity centre, before and after school care programs, IMPACT teenage adventure camps and vacation care programs. The PCYC is also used extensively by local and other community groups. Its activities also involve a variety of Government agencies, including Queensland Transport, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, the Department of Health, the Office of Sport and Recreation, the Mackay City Council Youth Development, and the Community Policing Partnership Program.

It is proposed that the new facility will conduct a variety of sporting and recreational activities from a social level to a competitive level for both juniors and seniors. Given the design of the facility, it is envisaged that a number of activities can be conducted simultaneously, either for training or competition purposes, such as basketball, netball, volleyball and indoor soccer.

Currently, the Mackay PCYC conducts a very successful blue light disco—in fact, the State's largest. The inclusion of young people is a major focus for the PCYC's community development strategies and crime prevention initiatives. The establishment of the Pulse Youth Space will promote and enhance the personal growth of young people through the provision of self-development programs, access to information, and access to safe and supportive youth space. The youth centre will provide young people with the opportunity to participate in recreational activities, which are determined by them and appropriate and sensitive to their needs.

An editorial in the Mackay Daily Mercury best sums up the vision that the PCJC has for caring for our young people. It states—

"Youth is the future. This region depends on the youth of today becoming worthwhile citizens ... business people, farmers, community leaders and even politicians.

The PCYC movement is recognised nationally for providing the opportunities for the young to develop in an environment of guidance, free of the problems of the street. Monday's announcement will make the task just that little bit easier."

I would like to place on record my appreciation to Sergeant Mark Mawn, who was the first Mackay PCYC manager, and his successor, Sergeant Jason Hopgood, and their committees for all their hard work, effort and dedication to bring this project to fruition.
