



Speech by

**DESLEY BOYLE**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Hansard 18 July 2000

#### **CAIRNS JAZZ FESTIVAL**

**Ms BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): "Thank you for the music, but more is needed." That is the consensus conclusion of people in Cairns who attended the jazz festival last week. Local artists and visiting musicians from as far afield as Sydney and Perth provided not just a great concert or two but a feast of music at venues all over the city for over a week. What is not known about Cairns is what a talented and diverse music industry we have. The reason this special extra is not widely known is that the opportunities to hear our musos are so limited—much too limited, in fact.

The city area of Cairns could be, and should be, much more like New Orleans. Increasingly, the CBD is a place for dining, entertainment and recreation not only for locals but also for tourists. However, while live music is played in the pubs and clubs in the city place and for special events—and congratulations to the venue managers who recognise the importance of live music—there are so many more venues in outdoor areas and parks where our able musicians could be employed. They would enhance the city experience for locals; they would draw people to the city for that purpose, for that wonderful entertainment and ambience that goes with music.

While I appreciate the efforts of the Minister for The Arts, the Honourable Matt Foley, and his contribution, particularly through Music Cairns and through the Cairns Regional Economic Development Corporation, to the development of the music industry, it is time for the private sector to put its hands in its pockets to recognise that musicians in restaurants and even close to their venues in the streets are a drawcard and enhancement that add to the very flavour of the experience of being in the CBD of Cairns. May we have more music in Cairns.

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