



Speech by

Dr LESLEY CLARK

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Hansard 24 August 2000

TOURISM

Dr CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): Tourism is Queensland's second-largest industry, conservatively worth some \$8 billion. My electorate of Barron River is home to the multi-award winning attractions of the Tjapukai Cultural Park and Skyrail cableway. Palm Cove on the northern beaches and Kuranda are famous tourist destinations in their own right. Barron River is also home to some of the extreme adventure sports for which the Cairns region is also justifiably famous—namely, abseiling, rock climbing and whitewater rafting, which I particularly enjoy.

I am also a strong supporter of and advocate for our tourist industry, so it was with great pleasure that I accepted an invitation to participate in the 10th anniversary celebrations of AJ Hackett Bungy at Smithfield, bungy jumping being another of these extreme adventure sports. As part of the celebration the company invited some of the original vine jumpers, or land divers as they are called, from Pentecost Island of Vanuatu on which the western-style bungy jumping is modelled. I was very honoured to welcome on behalf of the Queensland Government Chief Telkan Watas, a member of the Great Council of Chiefs, and two of his kinsmen from Bunlap Village. Local Aboriginal dancers also performed a welcome dance before Chief Watas blessed the bungy tower and the young Pentecost Islanders jumped from the tower in traditional costumes, which was a spectacular sight.

I commend the company for fostering a partnership with the Pentecost Islanders and for their commitment to Cairns, and I wish them every success in their future development plans to further enhance their operation at Smithfield with the construction of a restaurant and other attractions.

I also demonstrated my commitment to the tourist industry by initiating an annual market craft award valued at \$500 to encourage more hand-crafted products at the markets in Kuranda. I congratulate the inaugural winners, Mark and Leisa Burgess, from the original Kuranda markets, who make a range of jewellery, dreamcatchers and mandalas inspired by North American Indian culture, as well as Celtic runes carved from bone. Katie O'Brien of the heritage markets also received an encouragement award for her handmade candles and brass kaleidoscopes. I commend and thank the Kuranda Village promotion program for its promotion initiatives on behalf of the entire tourism industry in Kuranda and for its support for my craft award.
