



Speech by

ANDREW McNAMARA

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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WIDE BAY-SOUTH BURNETT REGIONAL TOURISM BOARD AWARDS

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (7.22 p.m.): Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Wide Bay-South Burnett Regional Tourism Board Awards night at the Brolga Theatre in Maryborough. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our tourism industry. I wish to congratulate the board chairman, Shane Boyd, general manager, Larry Monk, and their team for an excellent evening which was very professionally organised and run. Some 220 people attended the awards night. I would like to offer my personal congratulations to all the winners and to particularly note the outstanding quality of those operators from my electorate of Hervey Bay. The Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village won the Environmental Tourism Award as well as taking out the Restaurant Award for its Seabelle Restaurant. Kingfisher is an outstanding tourism operation as well as a major employer in my electorate. I think it is fair to say that Kingfisher has set a standard for quality, service and environmental sensitivity and marketing which is world class over the last 10 years. To general manager Ivor Davies and his team, I say well done and keep up the great work.

With that record in mind, I was delighted that Mr Gary Smith, a director of the group which operates Kingfisher and a number of other tourism operations up and down the length and breadth of Queensland, was chosen to receive the John Craig Gardner Memorial Award. Gary, who also serves as chairman of Tourism Queensland, was a most worthy winner of this prestigious award and I am sure that he will continue to play a major role in promoting our region. I was also delighted that Geoff Mahoney and his team at Kondari Resort won the award for Conference and Meeting Services and also for General Accommodation—Three to Four Star. Kondari is a very important facility in a tourism town like Hervey Bay. I wish to acknowledge the outstanding and continuous improvement which has been evident at Kondari in recent years in its look, its service and its standards.

Mr Terry Sullivan: Sounds like things are pretty good in Hervey Bay.

Mr McNAMARA: Things are going really well in Hervey Bay at the moment. I am delighted to take that interjection. The member for Stafford should come and visit very soon.

Mr Terry Sullivan: I have, and I would like to go again.

Mr McNAMARA: Indeed. There is not sufficient time tonight to permit me to speak in detail about all of the winners of the awards, but I say well done particularly to the Colonial Log Cabin Resort, which won the Budget Accommodation Award, as well as the Alexander Luxury Apartments, which won the award for four- to five-star accommodation. It is vital that we have a diverse tourism industry offering all standards of accommodation, and we have that in Hervey Bay. Brian, Jill and Sarah Perry, who founded our whale watching industry in Hervey Bay, were also popular and deserving winners of the Whale Watch Operators Award. I congratulate Queensland Tourism Wholesalers, which won the General Tourism Services Award; Aussie Trax 4WD, which won the Transport Operators Award; and the Hervey Bay Boat Club, which won the Registered Club Award. Finally, I also recognise Shane Boyd and the Fraser Island Company for their very deserving win in the tour operators section. Shane and his family-owned business are a credit to our tourism industry. The time that Shane devotes to promoting the whole industry while running his own very busy company is a credit to him. He is an excellent driver of the regional board. I congratulate all winners.