



Speech by

**CATE MOLLOY**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 4 September 2002

**REGIONAL SITTING OF PARLIAMENT**

**Ms MOLLOY** (Noosa—ALP) (8.47 p.m.): It is with great pride that I rise to speak in the House tonight in Townsville and to a gallery of Queenslanders. I thank Premier Beattie for giving the people of north Queensland this opportunity to witness their government at work and for giving them the opportunity to speak to him, ministers, members and even the opposition. As the member for Noosa, and with a keen interest in education, I congratulate all of the children who performed at The Strand barbecue. Their presentation made us, their visitors, feel most welcome. Among those performances were the children from Vincent Primary School who performed in sign language. To them I extend a special thankyou. I congratulate their music teacher, their mums and dads, their school principal, Greg Exelby, and undoubtedly their school community. They performed beautifully.

Having lived in Fiji, I have a close tie to the culture of the Pacific islands. My youngest daughter, Bonnie, was born in Suva. To see the rich and vibrant performance of the Cook Islands dance group was a truly cultural reminder of how by sharing our cultures we break down the barriers. In saying that, I believe that is what we are doing here today, breaking down the barriers between south-east Queenslanders and northern barriers—bridging the divide.

I congratulate the Townsville police on their exemplary behaviour, their courtesy and, most of all, their patience with the demonstrators who were exerting their democratic right to protest—that precious right denied to the people of Queensland by the Bjelke-Petersen regime for years and years. I again thank the people of Townsville for their hospitality. Let it not stop here. We should take parliament to the people to listen to the people of Queensland.

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