



Speech by

**DESLEY BOYLE**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Hansard 15 May 2002

**ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CRICKET MATCHES, CAIRNS**

**Ms BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (10.28 a.m.): I am pleased to inform the House of the recent announcement by the Australian Cricket Board that a test match between Australia and Bangladesh will be played in Cairns in July 2003. This will be followed by two one-day internationals on 2 and 3 August, and the 2003 program will be just the first year of a five-year program. As members can imagine, the news has been very well received at all levels in Cairns. Someone has suggested that thousands of Cairns kids will be there chanting, 'Ooh, aah, Glenn McGrath.' But I have no doubt that the biggest 'ooh aahs' will be for my favourite player, Jim Maher—a Cairns boy who has more than made good. Jimmy is a fine young man and a great ambassador for Cairns. It should be a very special occasion for him, as a member of the greatest cricket team in the world, to play in front of his home crowd.

Beyond the tremendous pleasure far northerners will experience in seeing the Australian team play, the opportunity is likely to be very appealing to many Australians who will at that time be suffering the rain, wind and cold of a southern winter. What pleasant relief in July and August to come to Cairns for a week or so of warmth, a boat trip or two to the reef and a few days at the cricket. We expect that the appeal of the cricket will also be international. We will take up the opportunities that arise from the, by then, frequent Australian Airlines flights between Cairns and six Asian destinations. I congratulate senior sporting leaders such as Russell Beer, Jeff Hopgood, Kevin Maher and Mayor Kevin Byrne, who have worked hard to make this happen. I join them and the ACB in the objective of making international cricket a major annual event on the Cairns calendar. In truth, we are seeking marketing assistance and promotional assistance at an international level through the Queensland Events Corporation. Sports tourism is a great opportunity for Cairns, considering the greater number of international-standard sporting facilities we now have thanks in no small part to the Queensland government's very significant financial contribution over recent years.