



Speech by

Dr LESLEY CLARK

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

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CAIRNS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

Dr LESLEY CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): Some two weeks ago I was privileged to watch as the Cairns State High School orchestra was crowned Queensland's most outstanding state school ensemble at the 2002 Fanfare Grand Final in Brisbane. The Cairns State High School orchestra has won Fanfare before—in 1992, 1994 and 1996—and this year won the largest ever competition, which comprised 560 ensembles from more than 300 other state schools.

Our Cairns High orchestra, conducted by Bob Favell, was just magnificent. The five pieces they played, from Bizet's *Carmen*, Suite No. 1, to Australian composer O'Boyle's *She Moved Through the Fair*, demonstrated the depth and breadth of their talent. They received an ecstatic response from the audience. As Education Minister Anna Bligh has said, the Cairns orchestra gave a flawless performance and were truly exciting to watch.

Cairns was up against the biggest and best schools in the state and won, which proves that the talent, commitment and dedication of our students, their music instructors, teachers and families is second to none. Chair of the expert judging panel, Professor Simone De Haan, was glowing in his praise of Cairns State High School and the standard of Queensland's instrumental music program, which now involves some 45,000 students. The latest win cements the school's reputation as a first-class provider of instrumental music. It is an excellent achievement of which the school and its community deserve to be very proud.

Music students such as those at Cairns High deserve nothing but the best facilities in which to develop their talents. Last month I joined Minister Anna Bligh at the opening of a multimillion-dollar performing arts and music block, created as part of the government's Secondary Schools Renewal Program.

The member for Cairns, Desley Boyle, was overseas on a parliamentary delegation and was unable to attend Fanfare, but I know that she joins me in congratulating the Cairns State High School orchestra on their outstanding achievement. The outstanding music program is just one of the many reasons that enrolments at Cairns High were increased to approximately 1,400 students this year. We have witnessed a significant growth in enrolments in state schools in the Cairns region. Our state schools are indeed great schools. I commend the staff, students and parents for their commitment, dedication and achievements.