



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 27 February 2003

AUSTRALIAN HOCKEY

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): I am pleased to inform the House of yet another international event that was successfully hosted on the Sunshine Coast. Hockey Australia ensured that three tests between our home grown Kookaburras and dual Olympic champions, the Netherlands, were held in regional Queensland. Buderim, within my electorate, is the home of Sunshine Coast Hockey, and the Beattie government has financially assisted to ensure our region has access to international standard synthetic fields and associated facilities which ensures that the world's best hockey teams can play outside the capital cities.

On Wednesday, 19 February the rain across the Sunshine Coast bucketed down, but that did not stop thousands of hockey fans witness an absolutely thrilling three-all draw between Australia's Gold Kookaburras and the Dutch. Both teams trained and conducted hockey coaching clinics for coaches and juniors at Buderim, Ipswich and Toowoomba. Well done Sunshine Coast Hockey, Hockey Queensland and Hockey Australia.

Mr Shine interjected.

Mr CUMMINS: I believe the second and third tests were draws, but I take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. In Toowoomba the Kookaburras won 6-1.

The recent history between Australia and the Netherlands men's hockey team is filled in equal measures with excitement and evenly matched play. This series marked the first time the Netherlands men's team has returned to Australia since claiming their second consecutive Olympic gold medal in Sydney more than two years ago.

The ability of Hockey Australia to take matches to south-east Queensland rewards these areas for their enormous contribution to Australian hockey. In a tremendous boost for Queensland hockey, particularly in regional areas, seven Queensland representatives represented Australia in their home state against the Netherlands.

While the visit of the dual Olympic and reigning champions trophy gold medallists is a highlight in itself, Queensland hockey fans received the added bonus of watching local players wearing their nation's colours on home turf: Jamie Dwyer, Troy Elder, Liam De Young, Steve Lambert, Nathan Eglington, Robbie Hammond and Dean Butler. For fans in the host associations of the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba—

Time expired.