



Speech by

**CHRIS CUMMINS**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Hansard 1 April 2003

**INDY CAR GRAND PRIX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr CUMMINS** (Kawana—ALP) (2.30 p.m.): The Indy Car Grand Prix and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003 aims to reflect modern drafting practices and to improve the running of motor racing events on the Gold Coast by addressing deficiencies in the current legislation. The move to amend this legislation is in line with the Beattie government's commitment to promote Queensland as a state that fosters sporting excellence and builds on its reputation for hosting international events.

Hosting international sporting events generates income for the state, creates jobs and gives us valuable global exposure. I realise that not only Gold Coast residents but also Queenslanders and, indeed, thousands and thousands of motor enthusiasts right across Australia enjoy this truly international event. We on the Sunshine Coast are also proud of the international exposure that we receive through the Mooloolah triathlon. The event commenced in 1993 as the Mooloolaba triathlon, a local community event, but since 1997, with the assistance of Queensland Events, this event has incorporated the Australian Olympic distance triathlon championships and the event has grown to become a multisport festival, including the Australian championships, an open triathlon, a teams triathlon, an ocean swim, a five kilometre run/walk, a Superkidz triathlon, beach volleyball, a fitness and fun expo and Triathlon Australia's annual gala awards dinner.

Over 3,500 athletes took part in the event over the weekend just past. The event is conducted by United Sports Marketing, an events markets management company that is based in Noosa. The Sunshine Coast is privileged to be the home of internationally recognised United Sports Marketing's Garth Proud, who we know does a superb job—as he did with the Goodwill Games triathlon. When we have such quality event organisers, it is easy to see how the Mooloolaba triathlon event will continue to grow and impact so positively on the Sunshine Coast and its economy.

Queensland Events was established to capitalise on the success of Brisbane World Expo 88. It is a government company with a mission to grow Queensland's economy through major events. Queensland Events is in the business of bringing world-class major events to Queensland to ensure a continuous stream of interstate and international visitors while at the same time profiling Queensland nationally and overseas to encourage future tourism and investment. We have elevated events to a policy platform in government, Events—the Queensland Way. This policy includes to maximise the economic development potential of major events; to create a regional event development scheme, which is funded annually with \$1 million; to encourage development and growth of regional events; to continue to support icon events such as the Gold Coast Indy, the Asia Pacific Masters Games and the Woodford Folk Festival; to develop a strategy to ensure and enter into long-term agreements for major events; and to grow existing and emerging events.

The role of Queensland events is two pronged: firstly, it secures and supports major international and national events that bring new money to the state, profile Queensland and create a sense of community pride; and, secondly, growing and developing events in regional centres, such as the Sunshine Coast, that increase local economic activity, and that enhance the appeal of the destination and the overall visitor experience. That is achieved through the Queensland Events Regional Development Program—QERDP.

We can be proud that Queensland now has the largest calendar of regional events of any state in Australia. The Queensland Events calendar supports over 60 events. Other current Sunshine Coast based events to receive Queensland government investment through Queensland Events are the

Woodford Folk Festival on the Sunshine Coast hinterland—and I am sure that members would be well aware of that as it receives international exposure—the Noosa triathlon multisports festival and the Australian PGA championships, which were staged in Coolumberr for the first time last year. Also under QERDP is staged the ginger flower festival at Yandina, the Noosa long weekend, the national community music muster at Amamoor, the ABD Thumpernats at Conondale—and I know, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Thumpernats are close to your heart—and the 2003 Australian motocross championships at Conondale.

Both Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast residents are all well aware that this Beattie Labor government recognises not only the benefits of being a competitor or being involved in these types of marvellous events but also how extremely important it is for visitors to come to our region, enjoy our hospitality and, naturally, come on back. Of course, those people have to tell their friends. I am proud to be part of a government that supports not only major international events such as the Gold Coast Indy but also regional events up and down and across the length and breadth of Queensland. I would like to commend the minister and his staff. I commend the bill to the House.