



Speech by

Hon. Liddy Clark

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Hansard Thursday, 30 September 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Centenary Celebrations, Cherbourg

Hon. E.A. CLARK (Clayfield—ALP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy) (10.20 a.m.): Tomorrow, the community of Cherbourg will mark its centenary with nine days of celebrations. One hundred years is a significant milestone and one worthy of celebration—particularly because Cherbourg has grown from difficult beginnings to become such a vibrant community. I want to take this opportunity to place on the record my congratulations to all residents, past and present, for the contribution that they have made to the development of Cherbourg over many years.

An historic occasion like this provides an important focus for the pride of the entire community and a chance to look to the future. Eight months of celebrations will peak next week with activities including a centenary ball, a rodeo, a golf day and arts workshops. The wide range of events on offer reflects almost every aspect of life in the community and I look forward to joining local residents for some of them. The official opening of the celebrations on Monday will be attended by the new government champion for Cherbourg, Robin Sullivan.

The Queensland government contributed \$62,600 through the Community Development Program to help the Cherbourg Centenary Committee stage the celebrations. A highlight of the centenary celebrations will be the opening of the Cherbourg Museum. The old ration shed will come back to life as a museum chronicling the history of Barambah-Cherbourg from 1904, including a time line of the community and an historical photographic display. The original ration shed was built in 1921 to distribute food rations to local residents and, with the help of a donation for a makeover, including a new roof, windows and doors, it will form an important record of 100 years of history at Cherbourg.

It is wonderful to see how far this community has come. The centenary celebrations provide a perfect opportunity for Cherbourg to celebrate its achievements and look towards a strong future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff from the personal histories branch of DATSIP and, of course, the most wonderful Lesley Williams—a Cherbourg girl from our south-east regional office—for their tireless work on the ration shed and the celebrations.