



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard Wednesday, 5 September 2007

CQU NORTHS CHARGERS

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (9.47 pm): I have stood in this House before and paid tribute to a local Rockhampton football club and I should make the disclosure that this year I am the vice-president of that club. Not only Rugby League wins through this club but also the Indigenous peoples of central Queensland. I speak of CQU Norths Chargers Rugby League Club.

This year, for the second time in three years, the club won the Rockhampton Rugby League grand final by beating Fitzroy Gracemere, which incidentally is sponsored by the member for Fitzroy. The team beat them 34 to 24. They have now played off against a Gladstone side and a Yeppoon side and will play Gladstone Brothers in the extended league grand final. Besides the Chargers who did it two years ago, only one other club has won both league finals in the same year, and that is Brothers.

The club has been very successful, not just the A-grade side that plays in the extended league but all levels of the club. In excess of 50 per cent of our players are Indigenous. The club includes many members of the Toby family who are noted sportsmen in central Queensland. Our captain is James Waterton from Mount Morgan. Our coach, Michael White, is a respected member of the Indigenous community and a former ATSIC commissioner.

I note that the Minister for Natural Resources and Water is in the House tonight as the Acting Leader of the House. He has paid tribute to the people from central Queensland in that the two areas of land that have been handed over by the state government to Indigenous land trusts have occurred in the electorate of Keppel. The Darumbil people are the land based Indigenous community and the Woppaburra people are on Great Keppel Island.

It is a tribute to the Indigenous people and the football clubs. Fitzroy-Gracemere also has a very strong playing strength of Indigenous people. It allows a lot of the youth in those Indigenous communities to be involved in sporting clubs and to show their abilities. They work hard for the club. They hold their head high. They wear the pale blue with the black and white V with a lot of pride. I wish them all the best when they play Gladstone Brothers this weekend for the extended league grand final.