



Speech by

Peter Lawlor

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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GOLD COAST SIGNATURE DISH COMPETITION

Mr LAWLOR (Southport—ALP) (10.19 pm): On 27 August it was my pleasure to represent the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries, Tim Mulherin, at the annual Gold Coast Signature Dish Competition dinner. It was held at Visions Restaurant at the Gold Coast Institute of TAFE. The TAFE staff and students did an excellent job in catering for the event, which was organised by Wendy Vaughan. Amongst those present were Reg Morgan, the President of the Australian Culinary Federation, and his cojudges Kim Chikott, Angela Brown and Brian Mossop. Paul Ierna, the Chairman of the Restaurant and Catering Gold Coast was also present, as were sponsors Vince Vaina, the Managing Director of Top Cuts, and Faye Tabet, from the Australian Mushroom Growers Association.

This was the eighth year of the Signature Dish Competition and the event is bigger and stronger than ever. It always stimulates great interest in local produce from the domestic market and overseas visitors. There is no better place for a quality food event than the Gold Coast, which has some of the best restaurants in Australia. The judges would have had a difficult time in settling on just one dish that stands out above all other contenders. I again congratulate the winners, Jay Jorgensen and Kylie Harris.

The competition is a celebration of the talent of all of our local chefs and apprentice chefs who have the ability to take fresh Queensland produce and create such wonderful meals. It demonstrates the strength of the links between our primary producers, our restaurants and the food services sector.

When it comes to horticulture, aquaculture and agriculture, we in Queensland enjoy an embarrassment of riches, with an amazing variety of produce and food products, and the food and restaurant sector continues to flourish despite the impact of the drought. Events such as this assist in opening up new domestic and international markets and tourism opportunities for our agriproducers and an ever-expanding range of associated niche industries. On behalf of the minister and all Queensland primary producers, I congratulate the chefs and apprentice chefs who participated in this year's awards and everyone involved in the Gold Coast Signature Dish Competition.