




Speech by  
**Gavin King**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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### CAIRNS ELECTORATE

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (9.28 pm): I am proud to stand here this evening and say that Cairns has shifted gear from the backblocks under the Labor government to the starting blocks under the Newman government. In the last few years of the disastrous Bligh government, our city was drowning not waving, but since the Newman government was elected in March confidence has been building and an air of positivity is returning to our great city. While the Far North has struggled with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country for the past two years and more, recent announcements by our government have dramatically shifted the city's outlook from one of despondency to an emerging sense of confidence and growth. In a short time, our government has notched up significant wins in the areas of tourism, law and order, and health.

Through our government's attracting aviation fund, we have secured direct flights from China Eastern, and our open-for-business ethos and a recent trade visit by the tourism minister and the Treasurer to China have helped secure flights from China Southern. Cairns hosted our government's highly successful DestinationQ conference in June, and last week the tourism minister and I hosted the China Focus Forum, which was aimed at bringing our city and community together to prepare for the influx of Chinese visitors.

Our government has launched the Cairns Crime Action Plan resulting in the highly successful Operation Escalate, a six-month blitz on crime in our CBD, and just last week 13 new police recruits were appointed to Cairns. Today the Cairns region was announced as one of two locations for a trial of our boot camp initiative—another sign that the law and order issues ignored by the previous Labor government are being addressed by our government.

The challenges presented by our uniquely complex health catchment are finally being tackled, with the establishment of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Board. Last week, we announced \$3.7 million in funding to recruit much needed specialists for the Cairns Base Hospital as part of our government's \$15 million election commitment to boost specialist services at the hospital.

On top of all of this and much, much more, the Premier this week announced that Cairns will host all 19 cabinet ministers at the next community cabinet on 16 and 17 September. Looking forward, Cairns will also host the G20 finance ministers meeting in 2014, an event that will shine the global spotlight on our great city. I am extremely proud to represent the people of Cairns in this 54th Parliament. Cairns is the tropical jewel of Queensland and a burgeoning international city. I look forward to working hard with our dynamic community to keep it that way.