




Speech by
Jon Krause

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

SCENIC RIM, TOURISM

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (11.52 am): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the importance of the tourism industry to my electorate. On Friday, 8 June I met with several local tourism operators—all small businesses—from the Beaudesert electorate. While I am talking about tourism in my electorate, I am going to refer to the electorate as the Scenic Rim—the name adopted for the local council, the Scenic Rim Regional Council, and, much earlier than the forced amalgamations of Labor in 2008, the name bestowed upon this spectacular part of Queensland by the Beaudesert and Boonah shire councils.

These tourism operators were meeting to discuss how tourism in the Scenic Rim should be advanced and, in particular, how the DestinationQ conference, which will be held in Cairns next week, can help mould the future of tourism in the Scenic Rim. There was palpable excitement in the room at the prospect of a state-wide approach to tourism—and, in particular, tourism in regional areas outside of the Cairns and Gold Coast paradigm—being developed from the ground up. It has been a long time since tourism operators of all types and all stakeholders in the industry have had the opportunity to come together in one place to put together an all-encompassing approach to tourism in this state. I congratulate the Minister for Tourism and Small Business for the enthusiasm with which she has taken up the challenge to ensure that tourism is a growth industry for Queensland.

Tourism is a key part of the future of the Scenic Rim, along with our agricultural industries and other residential and industrial developments. While I mention agriculture and tourism together, I must point out the terrific festival which will take place in the Scenic Rim in the week commencing 24 June. 'Eat Local Week', sponsored by the Scenic Rim Regional Council, is, as the council says, 'a wide range of workshops, tours, food tastings, dinners and activities for everyone to enjoy'. Cooking classes, compost workshops, edible garden tours, food tastings and dinners—there is something for everybody interested in food in this week. I invite the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to attend. It starts in Beechmont in the east and finishes at Aratula in the west and will showcase the best of the Scenic Rim's food and its agricultural industries. It is events like this which will grow from local events to major events, attracting visitors from all parts of Queensland and overseas if the conditions are right. DestinationQ is a forum to grow and promote 'Destination Scenic Rim'.

The jewel in the crown of Scenic Rim tourism is Tamborine Mountain, a spectacular mountain top community which overlooks the Gold Coast and the Pacific Ocean to the east and the spectacular hills and valleys of the Scenic Rim and ranges to the west. Whether it is businesses such as Cedar Creek vineyards, the Polish Place, DeliVino, Sugar N Spice, Witches Falls Winery, Thunderbird Park, the national parks which nestle the community—in fact, Queensland's first national park is on Tamborine Mountain—or the array of recreational activities which can be undertaken on the mountain, such as hang-gliding into the valleys below towards Canungra and Beaudesert, Tamborine Mountain thrives on tourism.

There is much work to do at DestinationQ to grow 'Destination Scenic Rim'. Scenic Rim tourism ventures are generally within an hour and a half drive from Brisbane. However, in comparison to areas such as the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, there is unfortunately much work to do in ensuring that tourism consumers, from both Queensland and overseas, know about how much this region has to offer. DestinationQ is a terrific opportunity for Scenic Rim tourism businesses to have input into their own future.

It is a forum where they can put in place the building blocks for their own future. The Scenic Rim is in itself a region which has a little bit of everything in Queensland. I look forward to working with all of the tourism businesses on Tamborine Mountain and in the wider Scenic Rim region to advance this key part of the economic future of our region.