



Speech by


## Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Hansard Tuesday, 13 November 2012

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### TOOWOOMBA, GIRLS CRICKET STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.38 pm): I would like to rise tonight to talk briefly about an event in Toowoomba that I had the pleasure of opening. We recently hosted the 15 years girls cricket competition for the state of Queensland. We had teams competing from all around—the Darling Downs, Capricornia, Wide Bay, a President's XI made up of some of the areas that did not field a team, Metropolitan West and Metropolitan North. The tournament went over three days. When I opened the tournament I feared that we might encounter some bad weather, but it turned out to be a really nice three days, and I think the girls enjoyed it very much. It was also very pleasing because the Darling Downs team won for the second year in a row. I congratulate them on winning back-to-back titles.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** There was definitely a home ground advantage. I should talk about the home ground a little bit. The competition was hosted at Toowoomba Grammar School, which would have some of the finest cricket grounds in regional Queensland—

**Mr Symes** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:**—Churchie not being in regional Queensland. The people who put the time, energy and effort into preparing the ground have done a fabulous job. I am sure the girls all appreciated the quality of the grounds.

A couple of other things helped bring the whole tournament together. I should say that tournaments like this are fabulous for a regional city like Toowoomba. We had nearly 100 parents and supporters there in addition to the girls. So it is great for the motels and the small businesses in town to hold these sporting events there. These sorts of things could not happen without organisations such as the City Golf Club in Toowoomba, which is an organisation that supports Darling Downs sport a great deal, both financially and by providing facilities for various tournaments. I thank them for the contribution that they always make.

There is another area that is very important I thank as well, and that is the Darling Downs school sports themselves. We are very lucky. We have a regional school sports officer known as Wayne Beeston who works tirelessly to ensure these kinds of events run very smoothly. We have lots of different sporting events and the Darling Downs is always competitive. Obviously on this occasion the girls were more than competitive. I very much look forward to the tournament next year. A large percentage of the Darling Downs girls were from Fairholme College, which is in my electorate. I would like to see those girls go on further. Some of them were selected for the Queensland team. I wish them very well going forward in that tournament. I look forward very much to the Darling Downs making a triple play in the 15 years girls cricket next year to see if we can win it three years in a row.