




Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Townsville Triathlon Festival

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (12.16 am): I would like to place on the record of this House my great sense of pride in a fantastic event that has been secured for my home city of Townsville.

**Mr Johnson:** Where's Townsville?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** A long way from Longreach, I am here to tell you! Next year, the Townsville Triathlon Festival will play host to a 2013-14 national qualifier for the world championships Olympic-distance triathlon. This is a really big coup. What this means is that, for the first time, this event will feature an Olympic-length triathlon—a 1,500-metre swimming leg, a 40-kilometre cycle leg and a 10-kilometre run—held on a circuit encompassing our magnificent Strand and Pallarenda. It will also have existing categories such as the corporate triathlon and the fun run/walk. This is something I have been involved in for a long time.

This event in many ways mirrors the great city of Townsville. That is, despite the fact that it has come of age and moved from what was a very small triathlon held in the suburbs of Townsville, in my electorate of Mundingburra, to a world championship qualifier event, the event has not forgotten where it has come from. Whilst there will be world-class athletes descending on my city and competing, there will still be the opportunity for part-time enthusiasts like myself to compete. That is the joy of Townsville. I have seen the city become a world-class city in recent years, but it has never forgotten its roots. It is still a place where people matter. It is still a place where people of different ages, abilities, ethnic backgrounds and disabilities can make a contribution. That is why I am so proud of the great city of Townsville.

This event will move to July. To my mind, with that move comes a great opportunity for the city to promote itself during the winter months. When the rest of the country—indeed, even this part of the state—is suffering some winter blues, in our part of the world it is absolute paradise. That presents a golden opportunity for us to promote ourselves. In that month we will be holding events like the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, the V8 Supercars, some wonderful horse-racing events and now this world-class qualifier for triathlon. Townsville is a great city with a great future. I commend this event as an important event on our calendar.