




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

ADJOURNMENT SPEECH

Daintree Coast, Boat Ramps

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (8.11 pm): During the election campaign the LNP promised to upgrade three boat ramps on the Daintree coast, which is an iconic stretch of tropical coastline and, of course, in my electorate. This promise was funded in the first budget of this government—a government that keeps its promises. This promise came closer to fruition on 15 May when the senior planner from TMR's marine infrastructure division and I travelled from Cairns to Cape Tribulation to inspect boat ramps and talk to locals and fishermen.

On that day the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, was in Cairns in her tireless pursuit of red-tape reduction. It was only after considerable pressure that I was able to persuade her and Jason to take a day off from her busy schedule to visit my electorate. We travelled the famous Captain Cook Highway to Port Douglas and north across the Daintree River and met with an enthusiastic group of locals at the spectacular Cow Bay beach, one of the boat ramp options. We moved on to Coopers Creek, which is an estuary in the heart of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area and another potential boat ramp site.

During our trip there had been much talk about crocodiles and the usual question: can we see one? At Coopers Creek I saw my mate Ernie who runs a crocodile tour. He was quick to respond to my whisper and said, 'Follow me.' A very trusting member for Nanango and her ever faithful husband marched off into the mangroves and bundled into Ernie's tinnie and we pushed off quietly into Coopers Creek. Within minutes we came across two crocodiles basking in the sun. One was a male about five metres in length and, on cue, he opened his jaws and smiled at my wide-eyed visitors. Our next stop was Thornton's Beach, which had all the prerequisites for a suitable launching site. From there, it was Lync Haven for a tropical lunch and then south to Rocky Point and Newell Beach—two more favoured launch sites.

Whilst this was a very enjoyable day, and the member for Nanango has been vying for Cook ever since, there are two strong messages. Firstly, TMR had mapped out several options for the three boat ramps and after talking to the locals was prepared to go back to the drawing board. The locals could not have been happier at having input and being listened to. At every opportunity MPs should get the decision makers and their communities together. Secondly, I encourage all members to visit other electorates at every opportunity as it not only strengthens out ties but also raises our awareness of the issues that other members bring to this House.