




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

ADJOURNMENT

Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (9.01 pm): There is a new conversation going on in the Indigenous communities in my electorate of Cook. It is a conversation about hope and the future, a conversation about opportunity with responsibility, a conversation about a legacy for the next generation. Tired of being left behind by bureaucrats, dictated to by self-appointed and so-called leaders and overridden by the previous government, the mayors of six cape communities now speak with one strong united voice. These mayors from Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw, Aurukun, Napranum, Mapoon, Lockhart River and Northern Peninsula, representing all the central and northern cape communities, have come together to form the Cape Indigenous Mayors Alliance. These mayors meet every month in alternate communities, with the mayor of that community sitting as the chair and hosting the meeting. Exotic local tucker is provided and the competition to outdo the fare from the previous meeting is becoming frenetic.

This group of countrymen understand that incontrovertible connection between economic development and community growth. The mayors are negotiating with our government to design, build and maintain their own homes. They are resurrecting the cattle industry that was decimated by Labor's environmental policy in Cape York, a policy based on Green deals rather than any science. They are negotiating with Rio Tinto Alcan for more effective participation in the workplace and wider career options and to re-establish the timber harvesting industry. They are in negotiations with TMR in respect of road construction and are looking at waste management opportunities.

Their catchcry to government is: do not step away; just step back and give us a go. I will read an extract from a letter from Wayne Butcher, the mayor of Lockhart River, dated 12 August, following the last CIMA meeting. He writes—

I want to take this opportunity to thank every Mayor, CEO, David Kempton MP and Government Officials that visited my Community. It was a great privilege to host CIMA in Lockhart and build a foundation through strategic planning and delivery. CIMA can be built into a very strong leadership group that will drive tangible and practical outcomes in our respective Communities. CIMA is a leadership strategy building a foundation of united elected leaders, networking, communicating and leading in and around our Cape York Region voicing the messages and the community driven agenda to the region, state and nation.

It is a pleasure and I am humbled to be able to work with these mayors on their vision. They are a credit to the communities they serve.