



Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Cook Electorate

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.48 pm): Cook is a complex geographic and diverse demographic electorate which posed challenges when responding to the Queensland Plan. For this reason, and in collaboration with the leaders of my electorate, we decided to undertake a comprehensive values based survey and an intensive two-day workshop to develop our response.

The survey was distributed to over 3,000 people and we received 545 responses. The survey identified the top 10 values of Cook residents which included: family, accountability, concern for future generations, respect and community involvement. The second question related to people's current experiences in the electorate of Cook and included: bureaucracy, confusion and short-term focus. This is a clear indication of the failed policies of the past Labor government. However, community involvement, community engagement and environmental awareness also emerged as a clear indication that my implementation of this government's mandate for change is clearly working in Cook.

The third question related to the community's aspirations for the future. The top five values included: accountability, community involvement, community engagement and being heard. This sounds like an electorate crying out to be heard. The workshop involved a broad spectrum of leaders, industry and community people and was held over two days in Weipa. I had to limit the numbers as the response was overwhelming. The workshop was facilitated by Dynamic Exchange and was a great success. In the words of Bernard Power—

I have been in the Cape for 32 years and have never experienced anything like this. It has been fantastic.

The group summarised the top 5 values for my electorate as: being heard, financial stability, community ownership, accountability and community engagement. Then a vision statement was developed which says 'the Cook electorate is our family and our future'.

The group went on to identify 35 major actions in Cook that are currently working well and then listed 45 wishes, which were aligned to the six outcomes of the Queensland Plan. Interestingly enough, an economy that ensures our children inherit a resilient future, strengthening our economic future and achieving sustainable landscapes, and moving focus from 'me' to 'we' were the most popular.

The group identified five goals and set out a clear communication protocol that called for greater communication and engagement in Cape York and far less predetermined consultation. An added and totally unexpected bonus for me was the endorsement of my efforts to date in my electorate on behalf of my government.