




Speech By
Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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ADJOURNMENT

Cairns Motorcycle Club

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the Cairns Motorcycle Club or the Cairns motocross club, as it is also known. It is located at Thompson Road in Edmonton in my electorate of Mulgrave. After recent communications with the club's president, Rob Salafia, we are very aware of the club's very urgent need for assistance. This club has been operating since 1991. It is a not-for-profit club which is run completely by volunteers for the benefit of the community. The club hosts various races throughout the year at the Thompson Road track with the profits raised used to improve the track and facilities, including updating the equipment and promoting motorcycle sports education, training and participation initiatives. To address some of the other issues facing this club in terms of dust prevention, the club currently purchases water for its track from the local speedway with which they have a relationship.

The interesting thing is that this club is between a rock and a hard place. It is a great track that needs several hundred thousand dollars spent on it to bring power and water up to scratch or it will be faced with having to move to a nearby council block, which may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. I have spoken with local council representatives. This land is currently on state government land. We are very keen to see the land transferred over to the council in trust. That will mean that the local club will be able to then apply for funding directly from the council, which at the moment it is precluded from doing because the council will not provide funding for a block that is on a state owned piece of land. That is something I will be writing to the minister about.

There had been some correspondence on this particular club's issues, and I was disturbed to hear that a representative from the government has been quoted in the paper talking about the government's proposed asset sales going ahead and that being one of the key planks to whether this club could receive funding. I find it extraordinary that already the government is essentially holding an asset sales loaded gun to the head of Queenslanders on a range of large scale projects. But to suggest that grants for sport and recreation are going to be massively impeded as a result of whether the asset sales question is answered in the affirmative by Queenslanders voting for this government at the next election is astonishing.

I have to say that this government is finding every reason to blame the previous government for a range of things, but to suggest that the finances of the state are going to impact on a particular local motocross club's ability to get grants I find astonishing. I would like to see the minister give consideration to a request from the council to transfer this land over to them in trust. Then we could all hope to get on with the job and support this great local club.