



Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Townsville Fire; Northern Fury**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.45 pm): That was entertaining. There is no doubt that the member for South Brisbane did not need the footpath the day she scuttled out of Patrick Condren's studio at a great rate of knots to get away from the very probing questions that the minister was putting forward. With International Women's Day upon us, I think it is pertinent that I speak about a success story in my electorate of Mundingburra, the Townsville Fire, which is the Women's National Basketball League team.

**Mrs Menkens** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The member for Burdekin has pointed out that we share them, because they are on the edge of our respective electorates. The Fire will play in their first WNBL championship this Sunday. They are a great success story for our city. If they win, it will be the first time that a Townsville based team has won the premier national competition in its respective code. As we know, the Cowboys won the Nines, and I see the member for Townsville making eyes at me. That was a great win and we are very proud of them, but it is not the premier competition. This would be a great win for the WNBL girls.

Today I acknowledge that a few years ago they were in troubled times, but in true fashion the city rallied behind them and they have found a way forward. Under coach Chris Lucas, they have really enshrined themselves in the hearts and minds of our great city. I acknowledge player Suzy Batkovic, who has been announced as the WNBL MPV—most valuable player—for the third consecutive time. That is the first time anyone has ever done that. I wish her well. I also acknowledge Rachel McCully, a local girl who we have all grown to love very much over the years.

While on the topic of national sports, I will speak briefly about the Northern Fury, which launched its season the other day. Nearly three years ago to the day, a great injustice was done to the region when the team, despite reaching the goals that were set by the A league, was cut from the competition. That rocked our core, because whether or not you support football, basketball or rugby league, we are proud of our city and we are proud that national sporting teams are based there. That really rocked our core. The Fury, now known as the Northern Fury Football Club, is going to be playing in the second-tier competition. They are looking to expand into the women's league and the national youth league and they are working hard to get back into the A league. Nothing would make me more proud than to see some of those young guys who are running around at the moment one day back in the A league. That would really cap the success for our city.

**Mr Crandon:** Are you going to play for them?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The member for Coomera asks if I want to play. Unfortunately, time and ability have robbed me of that opportunity. However, I have been offered No. 1 membership. In my remaining time today, I urge everybody to please take up membership of this great club, which is on a trajectory back to the A league.