




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville Crocodiles

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (8.35 pm): I rise tonight to issue a call to arms to my home city of Townsville. That call to arms is to support one of our national sporting teams at a very crucial time in its history. That national sporting team is not my beloved Cowboys, is not my Northern Fury that were once in the A League, is not the wonderful, dynamic Townsville Fire, it is the Townsville Crocodiles. A great start to the season has been had by the Crocodiles. They won the Blitz tournament and were awarded the Loggins-Bruton Cup—the first bit of silverware the club has won. Right now the NBL is at a very important time in the history of the league. But likewise the Crocodiles are at a very important time in their history.

I was fortunate to attend the first home game of the season on the weekend, which, unfortunately, the boys did not win, but it is early days in the season. The club has a new leadership team on the court. They have a new home ground that they have moved to—Townsville RSL Stadium. They have new off-the-court management who are trying their best to garner support. They are trying their best to ensure that commercial people get on board for corporate sponsorship.

I want to see a return to the glory days when a ticket to a Townsville Crocodiles game was something that was cherished. As a young chap I remember receiving tickets to a game at a school fete and thinking I was the luckiest bloke in the world to be going to the basketball. That is what we have to return to in Townsville. The guys have a role to play on the court, but off the court we also have a role to support them, to make sure the club is viable, to make sure that we create a situation where the sport blossoms.

Why? It is not just about basketball. It is not just about people who are passionate about basketball. Our national sporting teams are so much more than that. In the case of the Townsville Fire, it is about the fact that we have the only women's national sporting team in northern Australia. We are proud of that. In the case of the Cowboys and in the case of the Crocodiles it is about identity for our city.

When the Crocodiles came into the league in the early 1990s, the people who backed the bid were not basketball tragics. They were Townsville tragics. They were people who just loved the city. They saw it as an opportunity to promote Townsville on a national scale.

We are proud of the city we have become. We are proud of the fact that we have national sporting teams. We are proud that we play host to a round of the V8 Supercars. We are proud that we host a national Festival of Chamber Music in our city. What we need now is the community to rise up, support this great club and ensure that this year's first maiden championship is done in front of a record home ground.

(Time expired)