



Speech By  
**David Kempton**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Port Douglas, Community Forum**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (11.53 pm): I rise in the House tonight on the occasion of my 21st speech. On 15 May I invited the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games, Jann Stuckey, to be the guest speaker at a community forum to be held in Port Douglas. The minister gave a very clear perspective of our government's achievements in the areas of tourism and small business in the context of the Douglas region. I thank the minister for her considerable efforts on my behalf.

Even though the ATE was being held in Cairns that week and it was Carnivale time in Port Douglas, the forum attracted almost 100 participants. Mayor Julia Leu shared her vision for the future of the newly formed Douglas Shire Council. Sam Cullen, the organiser of a major marathon event later this year, explained how his group will raise awareness of the importance of the Great Barrier Reef.

**Mr Rickuss:** Are you going to run, David?

**Mr KEMPTON:** Yes, I am down for 10 kilometres. Gary Hunt, a long-term campaigner for Port Douglas, provided the forum with a very detailed account of the history and the future direction of the waterfront development. Leigh Ratcliffe, the CEO of the R&R Group, shared his inspiration for the future development of the Sheraton Mirage Resort, which is now over 30 years old.

I opened the workshop phase of the forum by outlining the constraints faced by regional communities and the positive steps we as a government are taking to address them—constraints such as an ageing population and the debt legacy left by Labor. The forum was broken into about a dozen groups and asked to write on butcher's paper their five most important actions for the next decade. This was a very rich and rewarding process as people swapped ideas. The outcomes were pinned on the wall and each group given a few minutes to convince the forum to vote for their ideas as priorities were determined. There were several lively and passionate presentations and the voting began.

The outcomes not only highlighted the wishes of the community, but pinpointed the years of neglect by Labor in the delivery of infrastructure and services to the Douglas region. Aged care services, the waterfront development and infrastructure and community facilities ranked among the highest actions attracting the greatest proportion of the votes.

The report, which is currently being prepared, will provide a blueprint for all levels of government when delivering infrastructure and services to the Douglas shire. I was very pleased to experience the enthusiasm and community spirit of this new shire. This is yet another example of how the Newman government is a people's government. Not only do we give regional Queenslanders an opportunity to be heard, but we listen and we act.