



Speech By  
**David Kempton**


**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2014

**MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Steve Moneghetti Marathon**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (3.24 pm): While Tony Abbott and Barack Obama are trading blows over the Great Barrier Reef, our government is getting on with the job of protecting that natural iconic wonder. The long-term protection of the Great Barrier Reef is the responsibility of us all. This responsibility is not lost on Sam Cullen and Bruno Bennett and the organisers of the annual reef run called the Steve Moneghetti Marathon.

This event is held every year in November, adjacent to the equally iconic Port Douglas. This year's very successful event saw over 1,600 entrants, including the member for Barron River, Michael Trout, and over 2,500 onlookers, including the member for Cook. The reef run offers a double marathon, a marathon and 10-kilometre, five-kilometre and junior events. This year's marathon was won by Jimmy Hilton, who was pressed to the line by Steve Moneghetti who, incidentally, still holds the world record for marathon events for the over 50s.

By raising awareness about personal fitness and wellbeing on this fantastic beach adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, the organisers are able to also raise the profile of the Great Barrier Reef, the impacts and the need for research to protect its long-term wellbeing. This is a fantastic event. With the assistance of the James Cook University research centre, the dedication of race ambassador Steve Moneghetti and the major sponsor, Bendigo Bank, not only is a fantastic event created but also many become great friends of the Great Barrier Reef. I congratulate the organisers, the sponsors and Steve Moneghetti for a great result. By the way, Michael Trout ran 10 kilometres in under one hour.