




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba, 2014 Tourism and Sporting Events

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (10.06 pm). It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight to speak about some of the impressive tourism and sporting events that will be happening in Toowoomba in 2014. I would like to go through a few of them. The Coca-Cola Queensland PGA Championships at City Golf Club are just about to start. Soon we will have the FKG Tour of Toowoomba, which has John Osborne OAM as one of the key organisers. It is a great event for our town. We have the Toowoomba CycleFest coming up this year as well. One great event that I will have a look at that is just around the corner from me is the Yakima Sunshine MTB Series cross country and downhill mountain bike event. This is a facility that has received money both from the Get in the Game fund and also the gambling benefit fund. It will be a great event. A great facility has been built on the edge of the range. I would like to thank the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Tourism for their support of these various events. The volunteers and organisers should not go unmentioned. The department team locally and the local tourism body should also be thanked, along with the local council, sponsors and donors.

There are many other events. All of these things add to the economic vibrancy of Toowoomba and make sure our motels are filled throughout the year. We have the Queensland Senior Schools Cup for volleyball being held in town. We have the Hutchinson Builders Toowoomba International Tennis being held at the university. We have the Tuff Bullbars Professional Bullriders All Star Challenge also being hosted in town. The list goes on. Just last weekend I was at the St George Queensland Reds versus Waikato Chiefs super rugby trial. It was a great game. It was great to see the Reds win in the great facility at the Clive Berghofer Arena. We have the Zarraffa's Coffee Oceania Road Cycling Championship, again organised by John Osborne OAM. Toowoomba is becoming a bit of a hub for cycling. We have the Titans versus the North Queensland Cowboys NRL trial coming up.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr WATTS: The member for Whitsunday can keep quiet because the Titans will win. We have the Queensland School Rugby Championships; the Queensland Masters Hockey Championships; the Queensland School Tennis Championships; the Queensland School Cross Country Championships for 13 to 19 year olds; the Queensland School Softball Championships; the Australian Country Hockey Championships; the Australian School Sport Golf Championships; the Australian Junior Road Cycling Championships; and the Australian School Sport Softball Championships for 12 years and under. All of these things are not possible without the support of the Queensland government ministers for tourism and sport and the local council, as well as the various sponsors. They are great events. They fill up our motels. They make sure we have economic activity. Inland cities can be great tourism destinations.