



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Townsville Stadium**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (11.31 pm): I would like to update the House on the fantastic announcement that local companies and contractors are expressing their interest in participating in the building of the new Townsville stadium. Whilst I was unable to join Minister Lynham last Sunday due to some personal commitments, I certainly welcomed his presence in our fine city on the weekend when announcing the great news of the first tender in Townsville as well as an opportunity for local contractors to register online their interest in future work. Registrations will close on 19 September.

I know from conversations I have had directly with construction business operators from local companies in the Thuringowa electorate that they will welcome this job-creating opportunity to be a part of this major infrastructure project in Townsville. The numbers that have expressed interest already demonstrates great local interest in the Townsville stadium, which we know will deliver much needed jobs due to the \$140 million investment in construction. We also know that it will be the home to the proud premiership-winning North Queensland Cowboys.

We know that many local businesses have already put their hands up to be part of the \$250 million stadium project now that the first tender has opened. It is indeed great news to hear that more than 200 businesses have sought information online about working on the Townsville stadium project and design tender. Of those, 54 companies have lodged 97 expressions of interest in the work packages and 158 suppliers have downloaded the expression of interest documentation. I certainly am very encouraged to see the response from businesses in the Townsville area. Everybody knows that I am a North Queensland Cowboys fan, but I am also a fan and strong advocate of ensuring we keep jobs local and help bring the confidence that was lost under the LNP back into our city. I know that this project will be the jump-start that our North Queensland economy needs.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HARPER:** I have obviously stirred them up, but that is okay. Our North Queensland stadium project will deliver a world-class facility for Townsville city and a catalyst for future jobs and opportunity. The stadium will be completed in time for the 2020 Rugby League season. I will invite members opposite to come along to that if they are still here. It will provide opportunities for local jobs for years to come. The stadium project will create 750 construction jobs and tender assessments and emphasise opportunity for local businesses and alliances.

I know my fellow MPs in Townsville will join me in encouraging locals to attend the Department of State Development's next quarterly industry breakfast, to be held on 6 September, when the departmental executives will outline tendering time lines and the type of work that will be on offer for this fantastic project for Townsville.