



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Hey YOUth Summit

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (1.42 am): I am extremely interested in the vision of local young people, their fears and concerns and their hopes and dreams. I held the inaugural Hey YOUth summit in June at the Rockhampton PCYC, because I want our young people to know that as their state member I am keenly interested in what they have to say and their ideas for the future of our region. Hey YOUth drew key speakers and 90 students from local schools including Emmaus, The Cathedral College, North Rockhampton High, Glenmore, St Ursula's, Rocky High, Project Booyah students and students from the local alternative learning spaces.

The Hey YOUth program of keynote speakers included environmentalist Dr John McGrath, CQUniversity's Kim Harrington and 2015 NAIDOC Youth of the Year and musician Chris Tamwoy. Students brainstormed and asked questions, and I loved hearing their ideas for the future of our region. The students' concerns included secure employment, money, the environment, friends, family and relationships, mental health including depression and anxiety, the cost of education, drug use in the community, bullying, peer pressure, uncertainty of the future, moving out of home, and leaving family and friends.

Despite being the most technological savvy generation, interestingly, multiple students said they are concerned about society's reliance on technology. Several students also raised concerns about the future if polarising, egotistical billionaire real estate mogul turned reality TV star US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is elected.

All of the students agreed that we must stop destruction of the environment and that climate change is a serious risk. Students discussed ways to save our environment including the importance of recycling, conserving energy, tree planting, stopping land clearing, reducing greenhouse gases through decreasing our reliance on fossil fuels, banning bottled water, and more awareness and education campaigns about climate change and a healthy environment. Banning plastic bags and introducing a container deposit scheme were two suggestions by the group, and I was pleased to inform them that the Palaszczuk government is already investigating these options.

I table a copy of all of the brainstorm sheets from the Hey YOUth summit for the interest and information of my parliamentary colleagues. Thank you to all of the teachers who attended, to PCYC Rockhampton, the department of communities, Headspace, CQUniversity, Rockhampton Regional Council, MRAEL and all of our sponsors. We received excellent feedback from the students, and I table a copy of the feedback received.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, relating to issues raised by youths at the Hey YOUth Summit [[1009](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 1 June 2016, relating to feedback from youths on the Hey YOUth Summit [[1010](#)].

I thank School Captain of Yeppoon State High School, Georgia McDonald, who wrote in the latest Yeppoon State High School newsletter this week that Hey YOUth—

... provided an excellent opportunity to voice the concerns and ideas of our newly formed Student Parliament.

I thank Steven, a student who attended Hey YOUth, for his feedback. Steven said—

This is a good opportunity that has almost made me want to be a politician ... almost.

Thank you to Steven and all of the young people who attended Hey YOUth 2016. It was absolutely wonderful to spend the day with you and to hear about what matters most to you—our region's future.