




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Rio Olympic Games; Queensland Rugby League, Country Week

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.54 am): As Minister for Sport, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the outstanding achievements being accomplished by Queensland's elite athletes. Supported by the Queensland Academy of Sport, our elite athletes have been excelling on both a national and an international level in the lead-up to the 2016 Rio Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Our athletes have been training and competing for four years waiting for this very moment, showing incredible courage and determination to achieve their goals.

As it stands, I am pleased to announce that Queensland currently has 41 athletes, including eight track and field athletes, six sprint canoeists, two sailors, two shooters, and 23 swimmers confirmed for the Australian Olympic team. Additionally, 11 swimmers have been selected on to the Paralympic team following outstanding performances at the national championships.

With just less than four and five months to go to the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games respectively, I am confident that our great state will be well represented on the big stage in Rio. I would like to congratulate our athletes and the support team which has assisted them to reach this momentous achievement.

I am also delighted to confirm the Palaszczuk government's support of the 2016 Queensland Rugby League Country Week. The Get in the Game Country Week matches will be played on 23 and 24 July in Charleville, Barcaldine, Mount Isa, Ravenshoe and Moranbah, with the commercially televised match to be held on 24 July in Gympie. As a government, we want to help support sport and active recreation at every level and hopefully inspire the next generation of champions.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr PITT: Hear, hear! Grassroots sport is the lifeblood of nearly every country town and we are committed to getting behind our local communities. I thank the QRL for working with the respective Intrust Super Cup clubs to bring games like these to the regions.

Many of our State of Origin stars began their careers in this competition, including the captain of the Queensland State of Origin team, Cameron Smith. This is a testament to the quality of the competition and the fact that it is the best breeding ground for Rugby League players in Australia.

Mr Hinchliffe: He was a great Devils player.

Mr PITT: He was great. I encourage people to get out there and have a look at some fantastic Rugby League coming to a town near them.

Since becoming Minister for Sport, I have been meeting regularly with clubs and organisations across Queensland. Most recently, on 7 April I held a Cairns sports round table where I met with representatives from 28 separate regional sporting bodies responsible for servicing Far North Queensland communities. The purpose of the Cairns sports round table was to create an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives of these organisations and to hear firsthand of their current experiences in managing their specific sports across the region.

The round table was also an opportunity for me to reaffirm the Queensland government's strong and ongoing commitment to sport and recreation clubs, organisations and individuals across the state. The meetings also provided the organisations present with the opportunity to network with each other and the staff of the Far North Queensland regional office of Sport and Recreation Services in the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing. I would like to thank all involved for their participation and the Sport and Recreation Services' Far North Queensland regional office for their efforts in organising the Cairns sports round table.

The Get in the Game initiative continues to support Queenslanders across the state in leading a healthier and more active lifestyle. Applications close on 29 April 2016 for Get Playing Plus, which provides up to \$1.5 million for new and improved places and spaces, with \$40 million available in this round, after I boosted funding by \$17 million in March. Additionally, the next rounds of Get Going Clubs and Get Playing Places and Spaces open for applications on 1 July 2016 and close on 1 September 2016. Of course, the successful Get Started vouchers open again on 13 July 2016. Do not miss out. Further information on these programs is available on the Queensland government website.