




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Prince Alfred Hotel

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.07 pm): I rise tonight to speak about a pub in Ipswich, the Prince Alfred Hotel. The PA, as it is known, is one of the oldest and most iconic hotels in Queensland. It is now also officially the best pub in Queensland having earned the trophies for best hotel overall and best redevelopment up to \$2 million at the Queensland Hotels Association awards recently.

Built in 1842 by Mr D Bergin, the PA was originally a two-storey hotel surrounded by 40 acres of cotton fields. In 1961 the Prince Alfred Hotel was destroyed by a fire, with the original coldroom the only part of the original building that still stands today. The hotel was rebuilt and opened in 1963. In 1987 Mary-Anne and Clive Johnson purchased the hotel and have remained the proud and passionately independent owners ever since.

In December 2012 the PA opened its doors to its new steakhouse, Char'd. The name was a tip of the hat to the hotel that burnt down in 1961. The 250-seat steakhouse which Char'd has become is setting the standard for dining, with a combination of decor and technology that will ensure a dining experience not to be forgotten. The success of Char'd led the way for the construction of the Tap'd bar in 2015. Tap'd is a dedicated craft beer bar with 72 taps.

The millions of dollars of investment and hard work that has been put into the PA by Mary-Anne and Clive and the PA staff including the PA Hotel Manager, Peter Coultas, have paid off with the QHA awards for best hotel overall and best redevelopment up to \$2 million. The latest awards are just a continuation of the state and national awards that the Johnsons have earned since purchasing the PA in 1987. It is important to recognise the Johnsons' passion not only for the PA but also for the local community and local businesses. The recent redevelopment of the PA was undertaken using Ipswich architect Peter Johnston, builder Cec Miles and interior designer Allison Burke—all Ipswich people with local businesses.

The Prince Alfred Hotel was a finalist in five categories of the 2016 Queensland Hotel Association Awards for Excellence. Taking away the top award for Hotel of the Year for the supreme all-round quality of its bar, steakhouse and service is public and industry recognition of something that Ipswichians have known for a long time: we do have the best hotel in Queensland.