




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Dalrymple Electorate, Motor Sport Precinct

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (1.54 am): I rise to speak about a combined development project that is happening in Charters Towers in the seat of Dalrymple. At the end of last year, the Premier came to my electorate and discussed with the North Queensland Motor Sports Association the development of the Milchester motor sport precinct. I am pleased to say that the Charters Towers Regional Council has provided the land, there are ongoing planning approvals and the drag strip development is well underway. I table the Charters Towers Regional Council Project Plan.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, Charters Towers Regional Council Project Plan for a motor sports precinct [\[400\]](#).

This new precinct will be a modern, internationally accredited motorised sport precinct and is located in a central area for the benefit of rural and regional North Queensland. North Queensland Motor Sports Inc. brings together the major motor sporting groups in North Queensland to form a board of directors. They include Townsville City Auto Sports Club, North Queensland Off Road Racing Club, Charters Towers Drag Racing Club, Charters Towers Remote Control Racing Club, Speedway Racing North Queensland and Charters Towers 4X4 Club. These great clubs will provide guidance and fantastic events for the community's enjoyment.

There have already been several events held at the precinct that have been a great success. The first race at the new precinct had more nominations and spectators than there have been for years, and the final round of the North Queensland Off Road Racing Super Series was held at the new venue last November. The benefits of this precinct are not only for motor sports enthusiasts but also for the town and region, with more people coming in to see some great off-road racing. In the past, the Charters Towers Drag Racing Club used the airport as a drag-racing strip, and as members can imagine there were many issues with planes wanting to land. Now this combined effort has taken the drag racing out to this precinct, with work already underway.

The community is obviously optimistic that they can have further development of this facility, and I am pleased to tell the House about it. However, we have a long way to go to fully develop this precinct. The Premier talks about shovel-ready projects, where millions of dollars have been granted in metropolitan areas. We have seen none of this. This is a shovel-ready project that will provide huge benefits to a region that has almost three times the state average of unemployment. Our regions are doing it very tough. There is no doubt that a fully developed precinct will lift morale, create interest for our younger generations and provide both social and economic benefits for Charters Towers and North Queensland. To make this happen, we cannot keep selling raffle tickets. Like I have said, millions of dollars have been handed out to South-East Queensland and we are calling for a balance of funding to support projects like this that will bring jobs and tourism to the regions.