




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tree of Knowledge Festival

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.08 am): The 125th anniversary of the 1891 Shearers' Strike and the first May Day march was recently celebrated in Barcaldine. I know that the Premier, the Leader of the House, the Minister for Health and many others travelled there to help celebrate with the people of Barcaldine.

A government member: The member for Gregory was there too.

Dr MILES: And the member for Gregory was there; that is fantastic. He will be interested to know that I am pleased to provide an update on another successful event held there in conjunction with the Tree of Knowledge Festival. Hundreds of people turned out to take advantage of the One Government Information, Service and Careers Roadshow. The roadshow, held on 29 and 30 April, aimed to strengthen connections between remote communities and schools and the Queensland and Australian governments. By all accounts, that is exactly what it achieved.

It did that by providing information on government departments, associated services and career opportunities available to students and the wider community. Sixteen government departments were represented at the roadshow including my environment department, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the department of education and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services. More than 200 students attended the first day of the roadshow at the Barcaldine Showgrounds. They were from six regional schools: Barcaldine, Aramac, Muttaborra, Jericho, Isisford and Longreach. The students enjoyed a range of interactive activities including making biodegradable planters, putting fillings into model teeth and measuring their running speeds using a police gun—a radar gun, I assume. Feedback from students and teachers was overwhelmingly positive.

The second day of the roadshow attracted another 500 community members to the Barcaldine Village Green who enjoyed displays including the Stay on Track Outback van promoting safe caravanning and Mates Motel—Join the Drive. In total, 700 people took advantage of the services on offer, which is more than three times the turnout at last year's inaugural roadshow, also held in Barcaldine, which attracted about 130 school students and 90 community members.

By being able to connect with rural communities in this unique way, we can find out the issues concerning residents and then take that information back with us to find better solutions in dealing with those concerns. We look forward to continued success when the roadshow rolls on next year.