




Speech By
Tony Perrett

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

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ADJOURNMENT

Tin Can Bay Seafood Festival

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (11.10 pm): Last month almost 10,000 people converged on Tin Can Bay to celebrate the annual seafood festival. Run by the Tin Cay Chamber of Commerce, it is a magnificent way to celebrate and showcase Tin Can Bay, the Cooloola coast and their famous seafood and tourist industries. Organisers including Tin Can Bay Chamber of Commerce president Cameron Henderson and deputy chair of the Queensland Seafood Industry Association Key Reibel are to be congratulated for their outstanding planning, organisation and promotion which were integral to the success of the day. I would also like to thank sponsors Gympie Regional Council, the Gympie Times and Bernards Petroleum, who provided support.

We were presented with an extensive variety of activities, stalls and entertainment, including the return of the famous frozen mullet-throwing contest and prawn-eating competitions. I was able to host the member for Burdekin and the member for Beaudesert in their respective capacities as shadow ministers and also the member for Condamine. As the festival is an annual celebration of the sometimes competing interests of commercial and recreational fishers, it represented both sides of the fishing argument from commercial and sporting anglers. As the member for Beaudesert said, 'Recreational and commercial fishing are both vital for the Queensland economy; it's just about getting the balance right.' We met with many residents of the Cooloola coast, including Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce president Mark Beech and business operators who were vocal about their concerns of the impact of government policies. As Peter Lee of Lee's Fishing Company gutted and filleted fish and served customers he clearly let us know the grassroots concerns of the local seafood industry.

Residents have genuine concerns that government policies and proposals will severely impact their businesses, livelihoods and the future prosperity of the region. The government's plans to extend World Heritage listing in the area, restrictive rules on commercial fishermen, the Queensland fisheries review green paper, road issues which are compounded by tourist visitations, improved access for tourists and concerns about management practices in the national parks have the potential to impact the economic health of the area. The member for Burdekin told the local paper that the government's conservation plans are important but excessive and that the preservation of 60 per cent of marine biomass would leave too little for all kinds of fishing folk. The agricultural, fishing and forestry industries are a valuable component of the Gympie regional economy. They contribute more than \$180 million to the regional gross national product and make up 25 per cent of the more than 4,300 local small businesses.

The event provided a brilliant way to support and showcase the region and it ensured that everyone was there, including a certain Clerk of the Parliament who was spied holidaying in one of the best spots in Queensland.