




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.20 pm): Toowoomba is a fantastic place to live, work and play. Spring is the time of year that we really come alive. We have just had the Carnival of Flowers. Many locals and many tourists enjoyed the wine, the food and the flowers. It was a great celebration.

This weekend many schools will be having their school fetes. Toowoomba East State School will be having their fete. I encourage everybody in East Toowoomba to go down and have a look. Highfields State School will host an event on Sunday. I will be there seeing the kids and catching up with some of the teachers who taught my children there. This weekend also sees Fairholme College's spring fair. My daughters attended there, so I will go and see if I can catch up with some of the members of the P&C and see how things are going there.

This weekend St Joseph's school will be celebrating 60 years. St Joseph's was attended by the former member for Toowoomba South and now federal member for Groom. I am sure that he will be there with them celebrating their 60th anniversary. On the weekend just gone Harlaxton Community Centre held a family fun day. It was great to catch up with a few of the families there. It was nice to have a brief chat with the former member, Kerry Shine, who was also there saying hello to everybody.

Not only is Toowoomba a great place to live, work and play; it is also a great place to invest. There are some very exciting things coming up. Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise have been working hard to charter a plane and fill it with people to go over to China and look at investment opportunities, particularly for some of the produce from the downs. What makes that particularly exciting is that in just a few short weeks a Cathay Pacific freighter 747 will fly weekly to Hong Kong. Hopefully that will increase to multiple flights in the future. This is a great opportunity for the businesses of the downs, particularly people dealing in perishable goods who want to get them into one of the biggest markets in the world.

On the weekend just gone we also had the business awards for the chamber of commerce. Cracker Print & Paper was inducted into the hall of fame. That business is associated with Councillor Geoff McDonald's family and is the business of the very first State of Origin coach, 'Cracker' McDonald. My good friend Isaac Moody took out the main award for the night with Gabbinbar Homestead, which is now putting thousands of tourist nights into the Toowoomba community as people come for wedding receptions.