




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Member for Callide; Mackay Electorate, Event Tourism

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.57 pm): I would like to pay tribute to the member for Callide for his contribution to the House. It would not be a surprise to anybody to know that he has many differences with this side of the House, but I think it is important that we pay tribute to the contribution that he has made and wish him all the best in his new life as grandad Jeff.

I would like to talk about tourism in North Queensland. Tourism in my area is alive and well. The Palaszczuk Labor government is doing a lot to support tourism in my area. It is vital that we see events such as Sir Elton John coming to Mackay in September for one of his two regional shows. Sir Elton John's tour is expected to bring \$7.5 million of visitor spending to the Queensland economy. This is a boost for local hotels, motels, restaurants and cafes. When Mackay turns on a big event, thousands of people from Central Queensland travel to Mackay. It is expected that there will be a minimum of 13,000 people at the concert. Mackay residents are excited about the concert. Whether people are an Elton John fan or not, we know that this is going to be good for the Mackay economy.

Last week, Mackay also hosted the AFL JLT Community Series game between the Gold Coast Suns and the Essendon Bombers—an event supported by TEQ's Its Live! in Queensland program. Four thousand tickets were presold with an additional 1,000 tickets sold on the day. The game was broadcast on Fox Sports.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the economic and social value of bringing events to the regions. Last year, Mackay also hosted the cricket Quad Series one day match of Australia v India and some qualifying matches with South Africa.

Events like these cannot happen without the support of government ensuring that the regions have quality facilities. The member for Whitsunday must have missed the Cowboys playing in Mackay a couple of weekends ago. The Mackay Cricket Association has completed a \$1.5 million upgrade of facilities that was possible with a Get Going Clubs grant of over \$734,000 from the state government. This meant that the club has been able to upgrade their coaching boxes, female dressing rooms, lighting and oval 3. Grants to the Mackay Netball Association of over \$600,000 to double the number of courts that it has and renew the existing courts will allow it to have state and regional competitions in our city