




Speech By
Rob Pyne

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Cairns Electorate

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (6.04 pm): Over recent weeks I have been holding listening forums in the Cairns electorate, inviting people from the various suburbs to come along and tell me what their issues are. The main concerns of people in my electorate are issues around law and order, juvenile behavioural issues and unemployment, especially for our young people, as well as delays in health services—people have to wait a long time for health procedures at Cairns Hospital.

It is great to be able to listen to the people and to do something about it. I am very proud to have transitioned to become an Independent member in this House. I campaigned as a Labor member and, since elected, have voted for everything that was in the platform that I ran on. Now what I am seeking to do is consult with my community and take their issues to the next state election and get a mandate so I can be the sort of Independent that we have seen in Australia with people like Tony Windsor in the federal parliament and, Mr Speaker, you as the member for Nicklin in this parliament, providing strong representation for your local community.

The truth of the matter is that the ALP and the LNP are arrogant, out of touch and overwhelmingly focused on South-East Queensland. When the LNP was in power, they sacked 14,000 workers and wanted to sell our public assets. Since then, the ALP has done nothing to reduce the cost of living or the unacceptable level of unemployment in my city of Cairns. We all know that the major parties do not work for the people who vote for them. They work for the corporations who pay for them. I see the party leaders in this place fighting like children over every issue. Their actions divide Australian against Australian. Our job is not to divide. Our job is to bring people together. I want to work to bring people together, for policies that deliver for ordinary people, not just the corporate and political elite.

I will always be Cairns' representative in this parliament—Cairns' representative in Brisbane, not Brisbane's representative in Cairns. Mr Speaker, I need, as you do, to come as an Independent to fight for policies that people in our electorates want, as well as for projects that are so important and that so many of our communities miss out on in regional Queensland. At the next election I will be telling the people of Cairns that, if they want to send a message to people in this place, vote for me and their voice will be heard in this place.