




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Beef Australia Expo

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.22 pm): Next week in Rockhampton we will see Australia's most significant agricultural event. We cannot underestimate the importance of the Beef Australia expo to our city and to the Central Queensland region. Rockhampton will welcome beef industry delegates from all over Australia and around the world.

The event continues to grow each time in terms of the numbers of visitors it attracts and the economic activity it generates for Rockhampton and the region. About 90,000 people passed through the gates in 2015. There were 1,100 registered international delegates from over 40 countries and more than 500 trade exhibitors. We are expecting this to increase again this year.

The boost to our local economy is incredible. The hotels and motels will be full and the shops, restaurants and bars enjoy demand like no other. It was estimated that total expenditure by all attendees and exhibitors in 2015 was at least \$74 million. As the local member, I fully appreciate the positive impact the event brings to our city and the region.

I expect that Rockhampton will continue to benefit as we highlight not only our beef but also the many beautiful tourist attractions that we have in our area. Central Queensland businesses have developed and will continue to develop lasting economic relationships around the globe and with other visitors from across Queensland and interstate as a direct result of Rockhampton hosting such an important international expo.

There are hundreds of short-term casual jobs created and supported by Beef Week. That is why I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government is supporting the 2018 event and the beef capital so strongly. The Palaszczuk government will contribute more than a million dollars in cash and in-kind support for this great event. Our in-kind contribution will include awareness programs, a comprehensive program of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries seminars, conferences, property tours, event biosecurity, advice for exporters and profiles of the latest technological advancements and improvements from research undertaken by this government. I thank all those involved in organising Beef Week. The Rockhampton community is eager to welcome people to the region.