




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Kershaw Gardens

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.03 pm): In 2015, Tropical Cyclone Marcia inflicted significant damage to Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton, upturning trees that brought buried rubbish to the surface. The redevelopment, 18 months in the making, is a fantastic addition to Rockhampton. It has transformed the old tired Kershaw Gardens into what I think is Queensland's best backyard. It has been an instant hit with people in Rockhampton and those travelling through town, as it is situated on the Bruce Highway in North Rockhampton.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's \$5 million contribution, combined with funding from Rockhampton Regional Council and National Disaster Relief Arrangements funding, this site is now home to a new and exciting park. This massive play park is overflowing with new stuff. I recommend Wyatt's Wonder Web, which was originally designed for New York's iconic Central Park. Wyatt's Wonder Webb is a giant circular structure with a colourful multilevel spider web containing climbing ropes, ladders, tunnels and slides. It keeps kids entertained for hours. There is a hamster wheel that sure packs a punch if you lose control or if you do not keep up. There is a 10- to 12-metre flying fox and climbing structures. There are covered areas where you can have a picnic or you can take advantage of the free barbecues that are available to use. It is a great spot to enjoy. The old Rotary monorail has been restored, with new rail and cars making it like new. I found the monorail too tempting and tried it out with Rockhampton councillors Drew Wickerson and Cherie Rutherford.

Separate from the large playground is a new water play area that has been modelled on the mighty Fitzroy River. It is less than 200 millimetres deep and will be a great play area in the warm summer months. The new Kershaw Gardens also includes an iconic entry statement, additional car parking and landscaping features that have improved livability and made this a regionally significant recreation space. I can declare that Kershaw Gardens has the wow factor. I congratulate all those involved in the redevelopment of this wonderful new asset for Rockhampton.