




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mackay, Governing from the Regions

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.34 pm): Recently I was honoured to have the Palaszczuk government cabinet govern from the Mackay-Whitsunday region. The Premier and the ministers fanned out across the greater Mackay region to get a real understanding of the community and the economy. People in my region, from Sarina in the south to Bowen in the north, were excited to have a chance to have a one-on-one with a minister or the Premier.

Mackay is a vibrant city with its eyes on the future. That is why the community was excited to have Minister Cameron Dick approve the Mackay Waterfront PDA. That will be a real win for our city. This PDA approval will allow the regional council to get on with planning for the trunk infrastructure needed for the new use of the land. Mayor Williamson expects this will take up to a year and then it will be time for development. The PDA will bring to life some under-utilised prime waterfront areas of Mackay and help to develop our emerging tourism industry.

The community were also excited by the number of announcements made during the week. Our regional netball players have been strong lobbyists for a modern facility so that they can hone their talents and host North Queensland titles. This will be a win-win for the sport and for our community, with hundreds of visitors attracted to Mackay needing accommodation and meals.

In case the netballers get injured, Minister Miles unveiled our new state-of-the-art Mercedes Sprinter ambulance service. This vehicle will deliver emergency prehospital care. One of its key features is a power assisted stretcher that will raise and lower patients with the touch of a button, saving paramedics from potential lifting issues. The paramedics working in my region are dedicated professionals and they deserve the best equipment that a government can provide.

Everyone loves a fire truck and it was wonderful to join with the Premier and Minister Crawford at the opening of the Mackay Fire Station. The fire station will service the Mackay region and will be home to our 50 firefighters. Our front-line workers will now have room for training with a modern communications room. Thank you to all of our brave firefighters for keeping my community safe.

We also visited the new police communication centre now open for business after an \$800,000 upgrade. The upgrade means that when someone from Mackay or the Whitsunday region calls for help they will talk to someone local. The new system improves officer safety by improving the vision of all jobs for priority assessment to promote and improve community and officer safety. Because we value our emergency services workers, the SES received new vital equipment.

(Time expired)