




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.28 pm): The 2018 Commonwealth Games broadcasted not just the Gold Coast but also Queensland to the world. The games will leave a lasting legacy, and I am proud of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring Queensland's regional cities, including my city of Cairns, played an important part in this significant event—one of the largest events to take place in Australia in the last decade.

There are a couple of really important areas to note: firstly, Trade 2018, which was a commercial component of the Commonwealth Games raft of initiatives. Between 8 and 10 April we hosted a Cairns priority site program to highlight to Commonwealth Games delegates the rich experiences afforded to international students as part of their higher education in our region. For example, James Cook University's marine biology program is renowned for being at the cutting edge of marine research in the world. This program is aimed at fostering relationships that will continue long into the future, benefiting our regional economy. Already there are more than 2,600 international students experiencing Cairns as part of their higher education. This represents a \$39 million contribution to the Cairns regional economy supporting just under 300 jobs directly and indirectly.

Cairns also played host to the basketball for the Commonwealth Games, and I am pleased to note that more than 17,000 tickets were sold, with the majority of those going to locals. Festival 2018—which was once again another initiative of the government—showcased Queensland's talent for the world to enjoy on the Cairns Esplanade, and it looked absolutely fantastic. In our city, more than 80,000 people took part and enjoyed the celebrations and the culture of Festival 2018. The place was absolutely alive. We had 12 days of fun and entertainment from 10 am to 10 pm on the Cairns Esplanade. This coincided with the school holidays, so the attendance was strong. Artworks were displayed, including Big Design, which was an outdoor gallery of public artworks designed by students aged 15 to 17. There were performances both day and night by world-class performers like Kate Miller-Heidke, Archie Roach and The Cat Empire.

The Esplanade was closed off between Aplin Street and Shields Street which allowed for al fresco dining which catered to a wide range of culinary delights. A musical story of Cairns called *Beginnings* was played at Munro Martin Parklands, and I enjoyed seeing this with the Governor-General. We hosted six days of Commonwealth Games basketball for both men and women. I want to say a big and special thanks to the 160 volunteers who made the rich cultural and sporting programs of the games possible. Our volunteers in Cairns, like those in other areas throughout Queensland, made the games. We can all agree that they were the best part of the event. Well done and congratulations to each and every one of them.