




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Targa Great Barrier Reef

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.15 pm): Last month I had the great pleasure of attending the inaugural Targa Great Barrier Reef rally. Before members on the other side start asking what a rally is, because last time I got up they did not know what an app was, I want to make this clear. This is called a 'commercial opportunity'. Hard work does sometimes wear overalls.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HEALY: I cannot hear you, guys; I am talking. Targa Great Barrier Reef is an international tarmac motor rally based in Cairns, with stages held around our beautiful region of North Queensland between Tully, Ravenshoe, Atherton, Mareeba and Port Douglas. The event was contested by some of the world's best touring, sports and GT cars. It covered 800 kilometres over three days, with approximately 200 kilometres of competitive closed-road stages. It was highly entertaining. Around 200 cars took part in the event in a cavalcade of motoring history from prewar classics through to the latest exotic cars.

Each day the event started and finished in Cairns, with a Super Street Stage on the last Sunday night that brought the action right into the heart of the city. Cairns also hosted Targafest on the Esplanade. That was a great chance for the people of Cairns to get close to the cars, as three blocks were closed off and the cars were parked along the roads. An estimated 25,000 people turned up. It was a fantastic event. You could hardly see the cars for the number of people who were there. It was very family friendly. A band played and there was a jumping castle, which I know would impress some of my learned colleagues on the other side of the chamber, as well as face painting, which could also help a few of them. Regional towns shared in the action by hosting lunches. Each day, the vehicles would stop in a local town, enabling the occupants to support local charities.

The Cairns round is the newest addition in what is now the Confederation of Australian Motorsport four-event Australian Targa Championship. The other three events are held in Victoria, Tasmania's west region and the centre of Tasmania, which is the world's largest, longest and hardest tarmac rally. The concept of Targa is drawn directly from the best features of the famous Targa Florio which operates in Italy, as well as in France and on the island of Corsica.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr HEALY: It is good that some of us can recognise talent. Targa Great Barrier Reef was brought to Cairns with a \$1.25 million three-year deal struck by Tourism and Events Queensland, the Cairns Regional Council and Targa Australia. As one would expect, the event brings hundreds of people who spend tens of thousands of dollars across the region in many different outlets. That is a called an 'economic opportunity'. It is important, so I am taking a bit of time out of my day to teach my learned colleagues across the chamber that these things generate jobs and economic activity. The town was busy and it is just one of a number of events that contributes significantly to our regional economy.