




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HILL

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Tully Showground

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.12 pm): I rise to speak about a matter of great importance to the Tully region, and that is funding for a new grandstand at the Tully Showground. The Tully Showground is the central hub and the only venue capable of hosting sporting, social and cultural events. Used all year round, it is the home to 12 different regular users including the Tully show society, Tully netball, the tennis association, the kennel club, the Rotary club, touch football, the Tully Lions Club, the gym club, Girl Guides, the Australian stock horse association, Tully Junior Rugby League and the Tully Tigers senior Rugby League male and female players. In 2017 Tully hosted a pre World Cup Rugby League game. The Tongan team was also based in Tully, using the showground facilities on offer at the time. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is currently in discussion with Queensland Rugby League to host an annual match between the Cairns based Northern Pride and the Townsville Blackhawks. Both are feeder clubs to the North Queensland Cowboys. Unfortunately, the current 90-year-old grandstand is now condemned, leaving the showgrounds without dressing sheds, showers or toilets and the inability to attract future events. I table a picture of the condemned grandstand.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Tully Showgrounds Grand Stand [\[867\]](#).

The region has been active in attracting state, national and world events which provide a boost to the local economy and showcase the region. For the first time Tully secured the hosting rights to the World Rafting Championships to be held in May 2019. Some 54 nations, 1,000 competitors and 10,000 attendees are expected during the week-long event which will be telecast worldwide through Fox Sports, but we have no grandstand. The Tully Showground is the central hub and staging area, providing entertainment, activity zones as well as showers and toilet facilities at the venue. The government invested heavily to ensure facilities were up to standard for attendees and competitors at the recent Commonwealth Games. We are asking for the same privilege to be provided to Tully to build a replacement grandstand in time for the World Rafting Championships.

The requested funding is a relatively small investment when compared to the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on stadiums and cultural centres in the south-east corner. The current makeshift solution at the Tully Showground does not offer disabled access or adequate weather cover. The demolished canteen has impacted on raising valuable revenue to assist the operation of volunteer junior and senior sporting clubs and organisations. Tully deserves the right to a new grandstand built for spectators and users of this venue. Planning has been completed and the grandstand is ready for construction. Tully needs a firm commitment from the government to provide funding so that work can commence as soon as possible.