




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Oceania Cup, Hockey

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.28 pm): Sport, sport and more sport was the theme in Rockhampton over the week of 4 to 8 September when the Rockhampton Hockey Association played host to the Oceania Cup. Kalka Shades Hockey Fields saw about 1,500 spectators fill the stands to watch the fast paced, nailbiting competition between the Australian and New Zealand men's and women's teams, and what a challenge it was. Six test matches were played across three days, with Pacific Island nations including Papua New Guinea, Tonga and the Solomon Islands competing in an Intercontinental Hockey5s competition across all five days. The Australian men's and women's teams battled it out in the Oceania Cup, which doubled as a qualifier for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Ultimately, we got the Australian men to Tokyo but our women were not so lucky. They played extremely well and we are very proud of them.

There were so many firsts, with the event played on Rockhampton's brand-new international hockey field, which I am pleased to say was constructed with funding of \$3.4 million from the Palaszczuk government. It was also the first time that video reviews had been used in an Oceania Cup and it was the first time that the Intercontinental 5s have been live streamed.

I congratulate the vision of the Rockhampton Hockey Association and their incredibly hard work over 18 months to stage this enormously successful event. A special thanks goes to president Barbara Knowles, her husband, Ryan, and all the members of the committee. With their persistence, they drew three tiers of government together to deliver a field that is already a venue capable of supporting Olympic qualifying matches right here in Rocky.

Last week the Premier returned from meeting with the International Olympic Committee with Queensland as a frontrunner for the 2032 games, and I want to see CQ included in the push for the Queensland Olympics bid. The benefits of an event like this should be spread across the state, not just confined to the south-east. We can host any number of events locally from hockey to cycling, rowing and so much more. Whatever it is, our local community will be showing up in force to support it. Let's make sure that CQ is included in any future Olympics.