




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Eumundi Markets, 40th Anniversary

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.18 pm): In the late 1970s the picturesque Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Eumundi was dying. The Bruce Highway that ran through the town had been moved and the general store and other local businesses were struggling. Something needed to be done to breathe life back into the town, so on a crisp autumn morning on Saturday, 25 March 1979—40 years ago yesterday—Christa Barton and her friend Gail Perry hosted the first ever Eumundi Markets.

In the short time that I have tonight I want to outline a brief history of the markets and acknowledge all of the community groups that work together to ensure that the markets and the town continue to thrive. It was a humble beginning for the Eumundi markets. On that first day, only three stallholders turned up—three stallholders selling local fruit, vegetables and handmade pottery; three stallholders who made \$30 from eight customers. Their spirits were not dampened. Too much was at stake. The following week there were more customers. The next, there were more again. Today, the Eumundi markets is the most popular tourist attraction on the Sunshine Coast, with 1.2 million visitors each year. The Eumundi markets is not just a tourist attraction; it is a breeding ground for small business success. Many local artists and creatives have used their skills to grow their market stall into state, national, or international success stories.

Over the years the aim and vision of the markets has stood strong. Each stallholder must be local and must abide by the ethos of make it, bake it, sew it, or grow it. Thanks to the dedication, commitment and stewardship of a number of hardworking community groups, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of my region's most popular and successful artistic and cultural institution. Those groups are the Eumundi Combined Community Organisation, the Eumundi and District Community Association, and the Eumundi Historical Association, supported by the chamber of commerce, Rotary and the Country Women's Association. Over the decades the Eumundi community has endured its fair share of trials and tribulations but, thanks to the unwavering support of these groups and all locals, we are now able to acknowledge and celebrate its vibrant history and proud legacy.

Today, Eumundi is not just a market town; it is an international tourist destination. It is a thriving hinterland community where people can find my region's best coffee, food or craft beer seven days a week. I am proud to represent the beautiful town and people of Eumundi as part of the Ninderry electorate. I look forward to working with all locals, small businesses and community groups into the future. If people have not been to Eumundi recently, I encourage them to visit as it is the original and still the best.