



Speech By  
**Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Boyne Tannum Hookup

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise this evening to speak about a wonderful event held recently in my electorate, the Boyne Tannum Hookup. Held over the three days of the Labour Day long weekend, the event is now Australia's largest family fishing competition and simply goes from strength to strength every year. This year there were 3,074 entries, up from last year, with 31 per cent of those entries coming from outside of the Gladstone region, which is absolutely fantastic. We had contestants from interstate. We also had two international visitors to the hookup this year. From impressive fishing weigh-ins, fun family entertainment to sampling delicious local produce, there was something for everyone over that long weekend not to mention over \$360,000 in prizes up for grabs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a lady by the name of Krystal Daly as well as Damian King and Jeff Taylor for taking me out on Jeff Taylor's boat at the last minute to help us get out there and catch some of those big fish. Unfortunately, we did not catch any prize-winning fish, but I am confident that the fish that I fed during those three days certainly will be better off for the experience.

This event is very important to Queensland's southern Great Barrier Reef region, with Gladstone and the beautiful Boyne Island-Tannum Sands fitting in that area. It gives families and community members of the region a chance to get out in our beautiful natural environment and it attracts thousands of visitors to the region over that long weekend whilst supporting local businesses. I must say that a lot of sporting groups and social groups in the community benefited from cooking the barbecues and running the bar.

According to Tourism and Events Queensland, people coming into the region over the weekend spend about \$174 per person per day, so it is certainly a big benefit to the region. The Hookup is now an event not to be missed. I would like to see many of my comrades in the chamber come along and join it next year. I say congratulations to everyone involved in bringing it together—Jen Maguire and the team from the Hookup. This is a successful event that has now been run for 24 years, and next year it will celebrate 25 years.

On the final night I had the opportunity to go on stage and announce that our government will be looking to move the start of the commercial barramundi season next year by a couple of weeks, which will certainly help those visitors coming to the region crack that elusive big barramundi that we see in the Boyne River estuary system in the Gladstone region. It is certainly a significant process and one that will require consultation with commercial and local fishermen. We need to make sure that we consult with those local fishermen who could be affected as well as other community groups including the Boyne Tannum Hookup. I am confident that we can win in a way that benefits our community and this great event, the Boyne Tannum Hookup.