




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Port of Mackay

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.54 pm): The port of Mackay is Queensland's fourth largest multicommodity port. It is a leading service centre for the Bowen and Galilee basins and the Mackay, Whitsunday and Central Highlands regions of Queensland. Its position within the region makes it an ideal transport supply chain for the mining industry, agriculture and METs sector at Paget. The port boasts more than three million tonnes of throughput. The port is diverse and developing each year in its capabilities with varying cargo and the quantum of its throughput.

Major imports and exports through the port include fuel, raw and refined sugar, grain, magnetite, fertiliser, scrap metal, ethanol, tallow and break bulk cargo. In recent years \$22.13 million in upgrades have increased the capacity for different types of trade, including the rebuilding of fenders on wharves 4 and 5 for roll-on roll-off trade and a federally accredited NSS quarantine wash-down facility to provide shippers with the capability to cleanse imported cargo and meet biosecurity requirements in a controlled environment. Improvements to roadways into the port and the installation of improved lighting have also added to the upgrades.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the development of the port. The recently completed \$28 million rebuild of the Vines Creek bridge has opened up access to the port for higher mass levels of freight. We are also committed to the joint state and federally funded Mackay Ring Road stages 1 and 2 and the Walkerston bypass. This will also improve port access. As a result of these upgrades the largest cargo ship in the world, *Hoegh Trapper*, now regularly docks in Mackay. This ship has 14 levels, an area of 100 football fields and can carry up to 8,500 cars.

In other good news, the community of Mackay will celebrate 80 years of the operation of our port at the Mackay harbour. Our first port was opened at the Pioneer River in 1863 when Mackay was just one year old. Our first harbourmaster was Captain John T Baker. Our new port at the harbour was declared open on 26 August 1939 by William Forgan Smith, the then member for Mackay. He was also the premier of Queensland. Mackay just keeps growing and growing.