



Speech By  
**Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

---

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Cairns Electorate, RSPCA

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.15 pm): Today I want to congratulate the Cairns RSPCA which has reopened after a complete new build of its animal care campus, which looks absolutely fantastic. I had the great pleasure of conducting an inspection through this outstanding facility the other day. I know that the minister who is responsible for the RSPCA, Minister Furner, would be very interested to know this and I know he is keen to catch up. For those in the chamber who are not aware, the RSPCA is an independent, non-government community based charity providing animal care and protection services. The first Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was formed in London in 1824 largely as a result of agitation by a most impressive young Irish politician, Richard Martin, MP for County Galway in Ireland. Martin piloted the first anticruelty bill through parliament in 1822, giving cattle, horses and sheep a small degree of legislative protection.

In 1840 the society's work was held in such high regard that the Queen gave her permission for the word 'royal' to be added to the society's title, and I know some people in this chamber may be impressed by that. Many years later Queen Elizabeth II—another queen—bestowed a similar royal warrant on the Queensland society. The Australian RSPCA was created 1871 when a public meeting to discuss the ill treatment of horses in Victoria led to its formation. Queensland soon followed suit in 1883. From one inspector to several supporters in its fledgling years, the society has grown to over 415 paid staff throughout the state generously supported by over 5,000 volunteers. Every person who works directly or indirectly with the RSPCA is dedicated to increasing the opportunities and improving the quality of life for each animal in their care.

I had the great pleasure, as I said, of visiting the new Cairns premises late last year and was really impressed by the thought and effort that had gone into constructing such a fantastic multipurpose and purpose-built facility. Manager Rob Harvey took the time to show me around and I met with many of the dedicated staff and volunteers who do such an amazing job giving those poor neglected animals some love and kindness and hopefully finding them a new home. Dan McKenzie, who is second in charge of the shelter, is also training as a veterinary nurse to better assist in his role and Cash does a great job as the dog whisperer, assessing the dogs' temperaments and determining how best to rehouse them once they have dealt with their behavioural issues. Knowing how important many of these animals are in the lives of many individuals and families—having a family pet and how it has contributed to the lives and teachings of our children—I want to acknowledge not just the staff and volunteers in Cairns but all staff and volunteers across Queensland who do this very important work.