




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Townsville, Tourism

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.58 pm): I jump to my feet today to talk about tourism in Townsville. We all know that tourism in Townsville is hard because we compete against so many other great places in our state including Cairns, Mackay and the Whitsundays. We sit somewhere in the middle. We have had to invent what our tourism niche is. We have decided that we are going to go for events and edutourism. This is great news because we are currently building the greatest outdoor stadium facility in north Australia—and that is the North Queensland Stadium. It is going to become the home of the North Queensland Cowboys and it will also become event central for us in north Australia.

Not only do we have those—and I know that there are a lot of interjections from those opposite because they love Townsville as well—we also have the V8 supercars later this year. It will be the 11th year that we have run that event in our great city. I see the member for Broadwater acknowledging that, because when he was there he used to come along and support that event as well.

The Gold Coast Suns will play a home game, so they will become the 'Townsville Suns' for one game. That will be against St Kilda on 15 June this year. We had the great honour of having the tourism minister, Kate Jones, visit us on Friday. We went to the Townsville brewery and had a 'big wet beer', which is a fundraiser for the floods we had in Townsville. While she was there we announced that the ITU Multisport World Championships will be held in Townsville in 2021. This will attract 8,000 athletes and spectators for two weeks. It is estimated to inject around \$16 million into our local economy. It will take Townsville to the world as images will be beamed to a world audience, taking Townsville to the world and bringing the world to Townsville.

It is hard to compete with tourism right across our great state, but for the last five years tourism has grown \$70 million and created an extra 100 jobs in Townsville. I am very proud of the work we have been doing there. People like Paul Murray have been listening to us say, 'Come to Townsville.' It is the best thing anyone can do in this House. Come and visit us. Stay in our great city. Go to Magnetic Island. Come to a Cowboys game. We will sit on the grass hill, have a beer together and watch the Cowboys beat any other team that comes. Please support our great city by staying and spending some time with us.