




Speech By
Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Townsville Electorate, Regional Parliament

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.13 pm): There are only 13 more sleeps until parliament sits in Townsville. I would like to thank in advance all the members, the parliamentary staff and the visitors coming to Townsville next sitting. Last time it happened it was in 2002 and the students I took along to that first sitting are now 37 years old. Gee, I feel old. This is really important to us. As members know, we were hit pretty hard by some monsoon events and massive flooding. Every time members grab a cup of coffee, grab a meal or have a drink, they will actually be supporting my community. I really appreciate everything they are going to do in 13 sleeps time.

There are still many families and many people who are not back in their homes. At this stage most of the neighbours in my street are hoping to get in by Christmas Day. That is really important for them. It is also an opportunity for my schools to come and see parliament in their neck of the woods. I am always seeing kids from other members' neighbourhoods come here, but now it will be my turn. I am really looking forward to that. It is also an opportunity for a lot of the members to meet with community groups.

I encourage members to bring a partner, stay a little bit longer, get across to beautiful Magnetic Island where they can go topless—car rental touring. I will repeat that: they can go topless—car rental touring. They can do The Forts walk. They can go and see beautiful Horseshoe Bay or they can go and see the three best bays on the island: Arthur, Florence and Radical Bay. However, there is a bit of a problem getting down there. The road has been damaged by the monsoon event. I have here 2,132 signatories to a petition asking if there is any way we can help support them rebuild that road. I would like to table that petition if I may.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition relating to the state of roads on Magnetic Island [1316](#).

The other thing members will see when they come to my great city is my stadium—sorry, Premier, North Queensland Stadium. They will see it under construction. At this stage it will be about 75 per cent complete. It is going to be the home of the Cowboys. I also encourage each and every member to come back next year on 29 February, that special day, because they will see Elton John perform in our brand-new stadium.

An honourable member: Your stadium?

Mr STEWART: The Premier will not let me say that. We are the home of major events in North Queensland. We had the V8s earlier this year, and what a fantastic event that was. We had the very first North Australian Festival of Arts, which was absolutely brilliant, and the timing for that was six months after the floods.

Ms Enoch: Supported by the Queensland government.

Mr STEWART: Yes, it was supported by the Queensland government. We also had the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, also supported by the state government. We also had the tri festival, the Townsville Running Festival, and there is so much more to see.