



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Fitzroy River Barra Bash**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.15 pm): 2020 marks the third year of the Fitzroy River Barra Bash. It will be my pleasure to perform the official launch on 21 February at the Frenchville Sports Club. The Queensland government, via Tourism and Events Queensland, was able to provide funding once again to support this great local event.

In November 2015 the state government ended net fishing in the Fitzroy River, with the aim of increasing recreational fishing opportunities and thereby supporting tourism and economic development.

**Mr Power:** Did it work?

**Mr O'ROURKE:** Yes, it did. This event aligns with our strategy to build visitation of economic growth via tourism in Central Queensland. At the official launch we will see the prize boat for this year—last year it was a Polycraft 410 Challenger—which will be won on the family fun day in May. The 2020 Fitzroy River Barra Bash tournament kicks off on Wednesday, 13 May and runs to Saturday, the 16th. It is a great competition for keen anglers lure fishing for barra and threadfin salmon, with over \$20,000 in cash and prizes. The 2020 Fitzroy River Barra Bash offers everyone the opportunity to participate in an array of events, including the all-new recovery session at the Frenchville Sports Club including a boat giveaway. The family fun day will be held as a separate, standalone event on Saturday, 3 October, offering all fish-loving families the opportunity to get out on the water and cast a line.

The Fitzroy River has become a mecca for fishing, especially for barra and threadfin salmon. We have seen new boat ramps at North and South Rockhampton and the construction of three fishing platforms—all funded by the Palaszczuk government. Today I stand here in awe of how successful the recreational fishing industry has become as a result of the net-free zones and the businesses that have helped shape us as an iconic fishing destination. We have heard about the impact the coronavirus has had on tourism across the state. Why not come to Rocky, enjoy a fish and see some of the many great sights around Central Queensland?