




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton, Saleyards Distillery

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.19 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, you know how much I love Rocky. We are known as the beef capital. We also have the best barra fishing on the Fitzroy and now we have the best spiced rum in the world. It is hard to be humble about how great Rocky and Central Queensland are. As stated by *Global Travel Media*, the winners of the 2020 World Rum Awards were announced on 12 April, with the Rockhampton Saleyards Distillery taking the win for its popular Capricorn Spiced Rum. Following two rounds of tastings, the local dark and hearty spirit was recognised as the best by judges of the global awards that annually showcase the very best in all internationally recognised styles of rum. Turning to technology for final decisions due to COVID-19, the judges conducted their final tastings at their homes while professional rum herder Peter Holland chaired the occasion via the internet.

I caught up with head distiller Warren Brewer and his team and, rightly so, they were very excited to have taken out best spiced rum in the internationally recognised award. What a great achievement for all of their hard work. For a relatively new distillery, which started just four years ago, to win this award over others that have been around for hundreds of years is just amazing. The team should be very proud of what they have achieved. I am not sure how to describe the world's best spiced rum, but it tastes great either on ice or with a mixer. You will just have to try it.

The Saleyards Distillery is on the main drive into town from the south and was set up in 2016 in an old iconic hotel. A group of young distillers came together, including Warren and his wife, Catie, and commenced working on their superb spiced rum which was distilled with Central Queensland molasses. When you are next in Rocky, make sure you allow time to visit. Not only do they have the world's best spiced rum; they also produce a suite of liquors, gins and vodkas—both alcoholic and non-alcoholic—which can be purchased direct from the Saleyards Distillery or online. The distillery also responded to the needs of Queenslanders to change its production to make sanitiser in the fight against the COVID-19 virus. What a great Rocky local manufacturer.