




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Whitsundays, Queensland Tourism Awards; Beef 2021

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.02 pm): On Friday night I was pleased, along with many of my colleagues across the parliament, to attend the 2021 Queensland Tourism Awards that were held at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre with more than 1,100 guests gathered to honour the state's best tourism operators across 31 award categories. The Whitsundays certainly took out its fair share. Karen Jacobsen—the GPS girl, the original voice of Siri and our Whitsunday ambassador—welcomed guests. I do need to acknowledge her latest release *Take Me to Hayman Island*, which is a fantastic new single that also showcases one of our award winners.

Some 17 Whitsunday operators were nominated across Queensland Tourism Awards categories. For the first time in history across three consecutive years upon entering the state awards for the first time, Red Cat Adventures—I need to acknowledge Asher and Julie Telford whom I know many in this House have worked closely with—won gold in the adventure tourism category and gold in the major tourer and transport operator category. We congratulate them now on entering the hall of fame in two categories.

I also acknowledge Intercontinental Hayman Island Resort, which took out the five-star accommodation category. Pinnacles Resort in Airlie Beach took out the self-contained accommodation category. Ocean Rafting achieved second in the major tourer and transport operator category—it has a fantastic product; Big Four Adventure Whitsunday Resort, which I used to take my children to when they were younger and which I know many families experience, also took out silver; and Whitsunday Coast Airport also took out silver in the tourism, retail and hire services category. Cruise Whitsundays took out silver in the unique accommodation category. Whitsunday Escape achieved bronze in the unique accommodation category.

Tourism Whitsundays took out the Richard Power Award for Tourism Marketing and Campaigns. I acknowledge the team of Tourism Whitsundays and the leadership of past CEO Tash Wheeler, outgoing chair Matt Boileau, incoming CEO Rick Hamilton, whom we welcome to the region, and new chair Julie Telford, who we know will lead the organisation with great energy.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Beef 2021. I am very proud of my cousin Bryce Camm and his team for being awarded gold in the major festivals and events category and gold in the excellence in food tourism category. It was fantastic to be able to celebrate the night with all of them. I also acknowledge and recognise Mackay Tourism, as a third of my electorate is supported by the Mackay Visitor Information Centre, which services our tourism industry. It took out bronze in the visitor information category. It has been a tough time since Cyclone Debbie, along with the pandemic. I congratulate the leadership of our tourism industry.