



Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton River Festival

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.10 pm): On the weekend we had the Rockhampton River Festival. The festival is now in its sixth year and is a fantastic occasion to celebrate Rockhampton through arts, culture and entertainment. It was a welcomed boost to our local economy, with tens of thousands of people attending the three-day event. There were lots of visitors to our region helping to fill motels and hotels. I am pleased to be part of a government that has a strong focus on events that drive visitation, support local jobs, foster community pride and promote our stunning tourism experiences. There is so much to see and do in CQ. Congratulations to the event organisers and all of those involved in organising this event, including all of the volunteers because, without their help, this event would not be possible.

The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service took the opportunity to have a pop-up vaccination clinic at the festival. I want to put on record my thanks to Candice, Linda, Louise, Chloe, Steve and their team of hardworking frontline staff for their great work in delivering the COVID vaccine clinics across regional Queensland. The River Festival team delivered 124 vaccinations over the two short sessions and set up a clinic in our car park, which was great. The three school pop-ups collectively delivered 485 vaccines on the Saturday on top of the 954 delivered by the two community centres. Saturday was its biggest day ever, delivering an astounding 1,522 vaccines. This was the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's largest week of vaccine delivery since the program began. However, we still have a long way to go, with only 68 per cent having received their first vaccination.

I want to thank the Premier, the Chief Health Officer and the ministers who have visited the region in recent weeks to encourage Central Queenslanders to get vaccinated. Now is the time to get vaccinated as the ramifications are so serious. It is a shame that the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, has been absent in encouraging people to get vaccinated. One would think that she would want to protect and support the people of Central Queensland, but no. Special thanks to Jase, MJ, Aaron and Tanya from our local 4RO radio station for their support of our COVID jabs ad campaign. We will hear over 300 30-second ads over the next six weeks. Thank you for the support that you are providing to the Rocky community.