



Speech By  
**Hon. Glenn Butcher**


**MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Boyne Tannum HookUp**

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.14 pm): I rise today to make a contribution about Queensland's, if not Australia's, largest family fishing competition being held in my electorate, the Boyne Tannum HookUp. I am very proud of this wonderful competition. It will showcase not only the area's natural beauty but also Queensland's southern Great Barrier Reef, which we know so many people are attracted to. This event is very important, particularly with our region coming out of the COVID crisis. It will create economic benefits not only during the three-day festival in Boyne Tannum Sands but also in terms of its live streaming in Gladstone. Not only will you be able to get out into the wonderful region of Gladstone; you will also be able to get out into the wonderful areas that surround the Gladstone area—I am trying to promote as much local tourism to our area as possible—and those areas just up the road in the electorates of Rockhampton and Keppel and into the Bundaberg region as well.

The Boyne Tannum HookUp continues to grow every year, with thousands of people travelling from all over Queensland to the Gladstone region for this festival. There is over \$200,000 in prizes this year. Last year, a record number of tickets were sold in a virtual hook-up in response to the COVID pandemic. The numbers just continue to grow. On the back of that, the Queensland government has invested \$20,000 to help the committee promote this festival, because we want to see more people from not only Central and North Queensland but also South-East Queensland come to Central Queensland to see our wonderful area. This is particularly so in the line of fishing, not only in the seaways and the reefs but also up in Gladstone's Lake Awoonga, which has barramundi over a metre long at the moment. That is fantastic. It is great that the state government can support festivals such as the Boyne Tannum HookUp.

Not only does the Boyne Tannum HookUp create opportunities for the festival itself; it also creates opportunities for non-profit groups—the local football and soccer clubs and those groups that sell hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. It puts money back into local sporting clubs as well. As I said, it is an opportunity for families to come along and see and enjoy the outdoors. I know that the Premier and the Chief Health Officer have been saying that, in running a COVID-safe event, we need to make sure we get out and about in our wonderful areas. Part of this festival is about getting out there and catching a fish. It is important. It is a big festival. I made a video to help promote it. In light of COVID, if you are feeling sick then leave your rods at home and go and get tested.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): No doubt we will be hearing about the one that got away next sitting week!