




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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MOTION

JobKeeper

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.34 pm): Drive tourism and events are important for the whole of the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region. That is why it is so important to retain JobKeeper. It is important in my region to retain the skilled workforce that we need to put on these events. We know that in the regions once people move they do not come back. It is so important that we retain these people in our regions so that they can take up the jobs. As I said, events are really important to the community of Mackay.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Pause the clock. Minister and member for Kawana, I will ask you to stop arguing across the chamber. Please put your comments through the chair.

Mrs GILBERT: When we do hold great events in our region activity flows throughout the whole of the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday region. Rumble on the Reef was held last year and it drew a huge crowd from across the whole of Australia because it is a unique event in our region. We are looking forward to holding events like the Mackay Mountain Bike Classic, the Mackay Marina Run, the Mackay Festival of Arts and the Motorcycle Beach Races which are held down at the lovely Grasree Beach. It is a beautiful family weekend. All these events are supported through the Tourism Events Queensland Destination Events Program. Our government supports these events, because it is so important to support jobs in our local community. I look forward to attending these events because they are fantastic.

We have and will continue to assist in the management experience and to protect the welfare of the wildlife, while building on the experience to transition to a traditional owner product with a cultural and conservation perspective, especially in the Year of Indigenous Tourism 2021. Mackay Tourism is leading a project supported by Tourism Events Queensland's Year of Indigenous Tourism Destination Program that will support the Yuwi people to build an Indigenous tour based around 'sunrise with the wallabies' and other significant sites around the Cape Hillsborough area. It was great to meet with our Indigenous ranger, Abe, the other day. He really loves getting up at four o'clock in the morning so that anyone who would like to travel to the region can go and have that wallaby experience. Julie and Asher Telford are building their catamarans so that they can start running tours out to Cockermouth Island.