




Speech By
Julieanne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Mackay Electorate, Events; Youth Programs

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.44 pm): Because of the Palaszczuk government's quick and decisive action regarding COVID-19, under the leadership of Premier Palaszczuk and the hard work of Queenslanders we have been able to live a fairly free life without too many restrictions. In my region we have enjoyed five NRL games at BB Print Stadium: three fixtures and two finals. This is something we have only dared to dream about previously. It was fantastic to have the likes of Nathan Cleary score tries in our patch and then see the team in the grand final. It was fantastic for our community. Just when we were getting over the excitement of the elite Rugby League teams, the Australian international women's cricket team played two day-and-night matches against the Indian international women's team at Harrup Park. These are fantastic role models for our young people. They got to see the likes of Beth Mooney and Alyssa Healey, who were in our city and meeting our locals.

The adrenaline rush did not end there. For the fourth year in a row Mackay was home to Rumble on the Reef, Australia's national skateboarding championship, which was held at our famous skate park, the Sugar Bowl. The Rumble on the Reef festival is so popular with interstate and intrastate visitors. It has grown into a music festival and a hydrofoil kite surfing and wakeboarding championship. Rumble on the Reef is supported through Tourism and Events Queensland's It's Live! in Queensland program. The dynamic Donny Frazer and his team are growing Mackay into an adventure sports destination. Every time there is an event held in my region it means that the accommodation venues are full, restaurants and cafes are booked out, retail sales keep the tills ticking over, there are people in jobs, the economy is growing, families are getting out together and kids are getting to see their sports heroes. It is great to be in the Sunshine State.

While we celebrate having the best of the best athletes in our region, with families enjoying precious moments together, we know this is not the experience for all of our young people. We know that for a range of different reasons there are a number of young people making poor choices, living rough, dropping out of education and training, and turning to crime. That is why, working with Minister Linard and Minister Ryan, we are delivering support programs that reach the most at-risk youth—projects such as the co-responder project and Project Booyah, which is run by the Police Service—and partnering with Transition 2 Success with Child Safety. These young people are making the—

(Time expired)