




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Bailey, Ms P

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.14 pm): I rise tonight to pay tribute to my great friend and a very hardworking far northerner, Pat Bailey. Pat, who is fondly known in the Far North as the mother of Rugby League, has decided that after 36 years she will retire from her position with the Cairns and District Rugby League. Pat has made what could be only described as a monumental contribution. She started her long career with the Cairns and District Rugby League, making the transition from basketball after being asked to be the secretary for the Ivanhoses football club. Pat joined the Cairns and District Rugby League executive in 1988 and has seen many great players and clubs come and go over her time in that organisation. I think it would be fair to say her biggest thrill has been seeing some of the young players she nurtured play at the top level. There are too many to name here this evening.

Pat was even part of the original committee that founded the North Queensland Cowboys in 1995. Originally, they were going to be called the Crocodiles.

Mr Harper: We already have the Crocs, mate.

Mr HEALY: Thank you very much for that. We will move on. In 2020 she was awarded the Order of Australia for her services to the Cairns community and was named Cairns Regional Council's Volunteer of the Year in 2017. Pat has also been on the board of the Northern Pride and is a life member of Ivanhoe Knights Rugby League Club, the Cairns and District Rugby League and the Queensland Rugby League Northern Division.

It is not just to Rugby League that this remarkable woman has made a contribution. Pat has been the vice-president of the Cairns Meals on Wheels, a member of the Cairns Hospital foundation board, a member of the Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund and a member of Building Active Connected Communities. She has also contributed as a member of the Cairns Regional Council's community grants board and a member of Cairns Regional Council's southern advisory board.

In 2011 Pat was named International Woman of the Year by the Cairns Regional Council for her devotion to the region's sporting landscape. She has received the Alan Ticehurst Memorial Award for Service to Queensland Sport and was nominated for the Harvey Norman Women in League Achievement Award.

I know the decision for her to retire was a difficult one. She has invested so much time and energy and love into developing sport in Cairns and surrounds. The clubs and players have almost become like family to her. Her contribution as a volunteer is an outstanding example to so many of what is vitally important to the fabric of our community. She is the true embodiment of the saying 'if you want something done, give it to a busy person'.

On behalf of our region's sporting community and the broader community, I take great pride in standing here tonight and acknowledging and thanking Pat for the outstanding contribution she has made in so many areas. She is a legend!