




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Fitzroy River Barra Bash

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.28 pm): One of the great jobs I have is attending the Fitzroy River Barra Bash—someone has to do it! Since that event first started in 2018, it has continued to grow in strength. The 2022 Fitzroy River Barra Bash has been added to the 'It's live! in Queensland' events calendar. The Fitzroy River Barra Bash will receive \$20,000 in funding support through the latest round of the Queensland Destination Events program. The Fitzroy River Barra Bash plays a crucial role in driving visitation numbers to Rockhampton. We all know how tough the past few years have been, so it is good to see our government investing in the barra bash to support our local tourism sector and create jobs. The event incorporates a four-day catch-and-release fishing competition in the net-free Fitzroy River.

Last year during COVID there were 176 participants with 69 visitors and their families who came from outside the region. I am sure that this year's event will be even more exciting. About eight years ago the state government ended net fishing in the Fitzroy with the aim of increasing recreational fishing opportunities and thereby supporting tourism and economic growth.

This event has increased year on year and is a boost to our economy growth via tourism in Queensland. The Frenchville Sports Club brought a bigger and better Barra Bash last year and I am sure this year will be even better. I must congratulate Graeme Brady OAM, chairman; Damien Massingham, general manager; and all the staff involved of the Frenchville Sports Club on a great weekend. The 2022 Fitzroy Barra Bash is Australia's richest barramundi fishing tournament, attracting fishing devotees, teams and amateurs and is set to be launched next month with the competition running from 16 to 19 October.

As I said, the Fitzroy River Barra Bash cements itself again as Australia's richest barramundi competition with an increase in guaranteed cash and prizes to over \$60,000—including a boat! I encourage all to come up to Rocky, enjoy this event and the many attractions that Central Queensland has. It is only an hour and 10-minute flight and plenty of accommodation is available right there on the Fitzroy River. It is a wonderful place and is great to see in Central Queensland.