



Speech By  
**Bryson Head**


**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Chinchilla Melon Festival

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (8.42 pm): I rise to talk about something a little closer to home: my hometown of Chinchilla. Chinchilla is the melon capital of Australia. We grow nearly a quarter of Australia's melons, and next year from 16-19 February we have the Chinchilla Melon Festival. Put it in your calendar! Come to the Darling Downs and come to the Chinchilla Melon Festival.

If you have not seen anyone split open 47 watermelons in 60 seconds using nothing but their melon, then you should probably come to the Chinchilla Melon Festival for one heck of a good time. Do not let the fact that they are more than 90 per cent water fool you. It takes one hell of a noggin to knock off that many melons in under a minute. Watermelon is in fact a desert plant and part of the cucurbit family alongside squash, cucumber and pumpkins. There is some debate as to whether watermelon is a fruit or a vegetable, but botanically speaking it is in fact a fruit. But maybe if I am a little more melodramatic it might spur more interest in the Chinchilla Melon Festival.

If watermelons alone do not excite you, how about a few novelty events instead. Try watermelon skiing. Yes, that's right, we have watermelon skiing. That is where you carve out an old watermelon, put your feet in it and ski along its half. It is a hell of a lot of fun. A lot of football teams in Chinchilla have been worn out at the end of a Saturday, having been the ones pulling those skiers along. There is the melon dash for cash, the pip spitting competition, melon bungee, melon bullseye, melon ironman and melon tug of war. There is even a chariot race if that takes your fancy. Yes, at the Chinchilla Melon Festival in February 2023 you can even attend a beach party. We might be a long way from the ocean, but the local pub trucks in a load of sand, puts it on the road and holds a beach party on a street in Chinchilla which is a very good time. There is also the melon eating contest. So roll up, put your hands behind your back, hoe into a watermelon and try to beat everyone at the table. There is also a free family concert. Come along to the Chinchilla Melon Festival from 16-19 February 2023 and do not forget to Slip, Slop, Slap because we do not want to anyone to end up with melon-oma. I will see you all there at the Chinchilla Melon Festival in February 2023.