




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Regional Queensland, Events

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to inform the chamber of the outstanding work that is being done in delivering world-class events to Queensland. Only two weeks ago, I had the absolute pleasure of officially launching the Road to Rodeo held in Longreach.

Mr Madden: Well done.

Mr HEALY: Thanks, it was good to be there. This superb weekend set in the heart of the Central West is part of a new series of legendary Mount Isa Mines rodeos and brings this western sport to a new audience by encompassing great family activities during the day and live music in the evening. I can tell the House that it was an outstanding evening.

The Longreach Road to Rodeo was exceptionally well run and, as a tourism offering, complemented the other quintessential outback experiences in the region, such as the Qantas Founders Museum, the Stockman's Hall of Fame and the Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine. These tourism products and events are helping support and drive regional economies as we recover from the COVID pandemic. Most significantly, we are seeing these communities, through their hard work, resilience and strong leadership, begin to thrive as they are making the most of these new opportunities and investment.

I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government is proving effective with strong support of these regional areas. With an eye on the future, the Palaszczuk government is also investing in dominant emerging sports, with the world's top mountain biking event, Crankworx, coming to Cairns this October after a recent announcement. I am so pleased to be part of a government that gets the importance of events, particularly in regional areas. As the planet's most watched mountain bike event, Crankworx will bring 1,200 competitors and an expected 34,000 spectators to view this spectacular competition in the world's oldest rainforest at the mecca of Australian mountain biking, Smithfield. Hosting Crankworx in Cairns will bring even more global exposure to the Far North, as the 2022 Crankworx World Tour coincides with the Palaszczuk government's comprehensive overseas campaign to deliver international visitors back not just into the tropical north but into regional Queensland.

There is no doubt we are at the start of a golden age of opportunity as we head towards the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. From Road to Rodeo to Crankworx, this government understands that a diverse and forward-thinking approach is needed to grow our tourism economy. Being ready to adapt and adopt in line with the latest trends and experiences is what we do well. We will maintain our state as the premier tourism destination, and we will also work closely with the tourism industry. This is where I also acknowledge our partnerships with regional tourism bodies and Tourism and Events Queensland, the statutory government body which is working very hard alongside government to ensure we deliver these outstanding products.