




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Tourism, Destination IQ and DestinationQ

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (8.51 pm): I rise to make the House aware that Destination IQ and DestinationQ were held at the Gold Coast convention centre last week, with more than 900 industry stakeholders present. Destination IQ, or Indigenous Q, is the premier annual event for Indigenous tourism in Queensland hosted by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council Indigenous Champions Network. Each year the forum continues to grow, inform and bring together all sectors of the community and industry to discuss and showcase the year that was and, more importantly, what we can do moving forward for First Nations tourism.

A diverse range of speakers brought with them a wealth of experience and knowledge on a broad range of topics. Participants heard from a range of informative speakers and iconic leaders, including David Hudson, who was a fine MC, Rhonda Appo, Cameron Costello, Kirsty Burchill and Matt Cameron-Smith. I make special mention of Cameron Costello for his absolutely outstanding contribution. This was all underpinned by Queensland's First Nations Tourism Plan and the six pillars: recognition and respect; engagement and respect; strategic coordination and structure; training, skills development and jobs; marketing and awareness; and authentic product development.

Destination IQ brings together business leaders, employers, government representatives, tourism organisations, native title holders, community organisations and thought leaders to discuss opportunities, issues and strategies that are influencing and shaping the operating environment for First Nations tourism in Queensland. It was an absolutely fantastic event. Over \$10 million has been invested in over 40 initiatives designed to grow the Indigenous tourism sector in Queensland and develop new Indigenous tourism experiences and jobs for Indigenous Queenslanders, thereby positioning the state as the nation's leader in Indigenous tourism. We have some world-class products and these are very important in a wealth creation position.

The DestinationQ conference involved over 900 people. The theme was Journey to 2032: Building on our strengths. The Premier set the scene in her welcoming address, highlighting the billions of dollars in tourism investment in the state and the strong rebound this has given Queensland. The new initiative Towards Tourism 2032 was well accepted, as was the declaration that next year will be the Year of Accessible Tourism. This will provide significant opportunities and it will be well funded, with a \$12 million program behind it to make sure organisations are aware of it and can capitalise on those opportunities. In closing, I had the great pleasure of highlighting the fact that we will be having this fantastic event, including the Queensland Tourism Awards, at the recently upgraded \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre. You are all welcome.