



Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**


**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Townsville, North Queensland Cowboys

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.16 pm): I rise to talk about the pride of Townsville and North Queensland—the mighty Cowboys and what they have brought to the north this year. The team had an amazing season despite many pundits—and I am sure there are many of them in this chamber tonight—claiming that they would end up with the wooden spoon. We know that when the North Queensland Cowboys are up, so is the city and the region. In fact, it really lifts the whole place. We all know that the Cowboys were robbed in their preliminary final against the Eels.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Yes, it is not the seven-tackle try. However, we know that the city certainly was not robbed. The game was a sell-out and Townsville's accommodation was full, as were the pubs, the clubs and the restaurants in the days leading up to the game and afterwards. In fact, the game helped inject around \$7 million into the economy which is fantastic news for our local businesses. That is why the Palaszczuk government invested in the Queensland Country Bank Stadium because we knew that it would benefit all of Townsville and all of North Queensland.

There is a saying that the member for Thuringowa and I used to say all of the time—that is, built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders. Events like this help activate Townsville's CBD. Not only that; they also showcase our city to a massive audience. Who can ever forget that the first Origin game outside of a major capital city was played in Townsville? I have to tell members that the place went off like a frog in a sock. It was just amazing. The whole place was alive until they ran out on to the ground and, jeez, wasn't it like a wet blanket after that?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story! Townsville also has a huge opportunity during the 2032 Olympics when it hosts football which means that the capital of North Australia will again be seen by the eyes of the world.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** I am sorry, members for Cairns and Barron River. We have proven time and time again that Townsville is the events capital of North Australia and we are bringing more events and entertainment to the city into the future, so let us have a look at some of the things we already do—the V8 Supercars, the North Australian Festival of Arts, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and Magnetic Island Race Week, amongst many other events. Already the Queensland Reds have announced that they will be playing two games in the stadium in Townsville next year, which will be another welcome boost for the city.

As a government we will continue to invest in ways to support Townsville's great lifestyle while also supporting great jobs. There were plenty of naysayers about building this stadium in Townsville, but there are not many of them left. This investment from the Palaszczuk government will continue to pay dividends and will be embraced by Townsville now and into the future.