




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pink

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.34 pm): Let's get the party started in Townsville! It is going to be awesome. Pink is coming to Townsville, and let me tell you how we got there. It was not an easy journey, but everyone on this side of the House knows that our government backed the construction of Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We had a motto in Townsville: 'Built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders'.

In February this year I wrote to the Minister for Tourism after I saw that Pink was touring Australia and said, 'Could we get Pink to Townsville?' Negotiations had been done. It was going to be difficult. Townsville was not on the list. It was like a pink rag to a bull. I just went at it and started an MP petition. Everyone knows that I am like a dog with a bone: I will not give up. In the first 24 hours I had over a thousand people smash that MP petition. I then engaged with the fan Facebook page 'Bring PINK to Townsville'. They should be commended as well. They have been around for a decade. Now that we have the stadium, we can do it. Hats off to them, because this was a combined effort among them, Townsville Enterprise, the mayor, Tourism and Events Queensland and our Premier. It was great news when we heard about concert No. 1. I learned from talking with the promoters, Live Nation, that we broke their page. In 16 minutes the stadium sold out. I table a document.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 February 2023, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, to the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, relating to Pink touring in Townsville [1194](#).

As we heard the Premier say this morning, 35,000 people will be coming to North Queensland, 1,200 from Victoria. We will welcome them with open arms. Stay and play. Come to Magnetic Island. We know what this will do for our economy. When it sold out, my office was smashed by people saying that they could not get tickets. We could not get tickets! My wife was in the queue and could not get tickets. I went back to the promoters and said, 'Let's start it again.' Yesterday morning I was on the radio with Pricey and he was asking, 'Why are you doing this again?' I said, 'It worked the first time, right?' Guess what: we now have a second show, on Friday, 22 March. It is going to be awesome. It is going to pump millions and millions of dollars into our economy.

For anyone who knows the song *Trustfall*, it is not the 'last call'. We will have 'kids in love' and we're 'never gonna not dance again', because this will help bring more people and more concerts to Townsville. I have already written back to the promoters saying, 'Let's get country there.' Imagine country music pumping out of Queensland Country Bank Stadium. We have done so much in that stadium. We can do a hell of a lot more. I want to thank everyone who got behind the call to bring Pink to Townsville. We love you, Pink. It will be awesome to hear her music pumping out of that stadium. I want to thank the member for Maryborough for helping out a brother who needed a jacket today. Let's 'get the party started'.