



Speech By


Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Rockhampton

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.03 pm): There are numerous reasons Rockhampton is a great place to live, work and play. Living in Rockhampton offers a relaxed and laid-back lifestyle. It has a welcoming community, with friendly locals who are always willing to lend a helping hand. One of the significant benefits of living in Rockhampton is its fantastic climate. With more than 300 days of sunshine each year, residents can enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities. It does get a little warm in summer, but it is better than the cold any day. Rocky is also located near beautiful beaches, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef, making it an ideal location for outdoor enthusiasts.

Rockhampton is steeped in history, with many heritage-listed buildings dating back to the 1800s. The town was founded in 1858 and played an important role in Queensland's early development. You can explore the town's history at the Rockhampton Heritage Village, which is a living history museum. Rockhampton is also an excellent place to work. It is a regional hub for business and industry, with a diverse range of employment opportunities.

Rockhampton is great for the outdoors enthusiast. You can go hiking in the nearby Mount Archer National Park, fishing on the Fitzroy or kayaking in the Keppels. The town has many parks and gardens, including the Botanic Gardens and Kershaw Gardens, which are perfect for picnics and leisurely strolls. Rockhampton is home to a vibrant arts and cultural scene, with many festivals and events taking place throughout the year. Visitors can catch a performance at the Pilbeam Theatre or immerse themselves in the local art scene at the Rockhampton Museum of Art.

For the sports enthusiast Rockhampton has just about every sport available and we hold a range of sporting events. The city is home to the Capras Rugby League team, a feeder club to the Redcliffe Dolphins. There are numerous sporting clubs catering to various interests such as hockey, basketball, cycling, soccer, tennis, swimming and netball to name a few. Best not forget that every three years we also host Beef Week, which brings tens of thousands of people to the region.

Rockhampton is an excellent place to live, work and play, with its reasonable cost of living, fantastic climate and a range of employment and leisure opportunities. It is no wonder that many people choose to call it home. I encourage everyone to take the time to come and visit. It is a great place to come and visit. Take care.