



Speech By  
**Barry O'Rourke**


**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Member for Rockhampton, Retirement

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.16 pm): It is with mixed emotions that I announce my decision not to contest the next state election in October 2024. After a career spanning nearly 45 years in public service and what will be seven years as the member for Rockhampton, it is time for me to take a step back. The decision not to seek re-election has not come lightly and is mainly based on health considerations. In recent years I have encountered a couple of minor health issues which, although manageable, have made me realise the importance of prioritising my own wellbeing. I must say that I am looking forward to the opportunity to spend more time with family and loved ones as well as dedicating more energy to my health and personal wellbeing. These are areas of my life that I have at times neglected due to competing priorities, and it is time for me to rectify that.

I thank my wonderful wife, Sue-Ann, and our family—Jim and Kelsey and Harry and Hannah—for their love, understanding and support. To the people of Rockhampton and Gracemere, I say thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you. It has been an honour and a privilege to work with you to address the issues that impact people's lives: creating local jobs and training opportunities; investing in schools; and investing in local health care and housing.

There have been many challenges and there is still a lot of work to do, but I am extremely proud of the more than \$4 billion worth of projects that have been delivered or are being delivered locally with the support of the Labor government. There are so many to list, including: Rockhampton Ring Road; Rookwood Weir; the new \$91 million mental health facility; Browne Park upgrade; Rockhampton to Mount Morgan water pipeline; Rockhampton rail yards redevelopment; Alliance maintenance facility; Lawrie Street upgrade; Capricorn Highway upgrade; the alcohol and drug centre; Rockhampton Neighbourhood Centre; Rockhampton Special School upgrade; Rockhampton North Special School upgrade; and the new multipurpose hall for The Hall State School—just to name a few. There has been an unprecedented investment into our community, and we all know that it is Labor that delivers for Rockhampton and Gracemere. I am proud of what we have achieved, and I will spend the next 12 months working hard to make sure that Central Queensland is well represented in the future.