




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Regional Sitings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.02 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, let's try to go out on a positive note! On behalf of the City of Cairns, on behalf of the people of Far North Queensland, I thank the entire parliament for coming here this week. What a fantastic week it was! It began with a cabinet meeting on Monday here in Cairns and great announcements, it moved into the government reception on Monday night and then we have had three fantastic days of sitting. We have had fantastic conversations with stakeholders.

I want to acknowledge those who did welcome to country many, many times—the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people, the Yirrganydji people, the Djabugay people, the Torres Strait Islander people and, of course, the dancers. They were very busy. I think it is probably their busiest week of welcomes to country for some time.

I thank the Cairns Convention Centre staff. This is an amazing, awesome building. There is much more to this building than just what we see here. It is actually a very large building, with many staff working here behind the scenes. There is a whole floor underneath us where all the kitchens are and everything else. It is a rabbit warren, but it is very well put together and of significant, world-class standard.

I thank the security, the police, the volunteers and our electorate staff who came in. I thank the media—those who travelled up here but also the local Cairns media. I thank the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and all the attendants who made this happen. I thank the member for Greenslopes for stepping in as Acting Speaker. He did an amazing job for us this week.

I thank the many schoolkids who came and even visitors who came and sat in the gallery. There are some people up there right now who have been here all week—all week! They could probably write very serious reports on our behaviour. I went up after question time this morning to talk to the schoolkids. Referring to the member for Cairns' comments, we do not get to talk to our schoolkids in Brisbane. It was great to go up to the gallery and talk to them. I got hit with a thousand questions. Now I know what the Brisbane MPs go through! It was absolutely fantastic.

We had all the other events around Cairns—I thank the nurses, the mayors, the councils, all the advocacy groups and the seniors who were here. It was a very busy week.

We had the historic passing of the treaty bill. I am so delighted that Mr Acting Speaker made reference to the Guugu Yimithirr spear—that it will be travelling back to parliament and that parliament will do something special with it. I think that is very fitting.

I thank the ITTB members who travelled here and helped me with treaty this week. I thank my ministerial team. They have written so many speeches this week it is not funny. I thank my department led by Chris Sarra and Kathy Parton, who helped support my office this week.

Finally, to everyone, stay a bit longer if you like. Enjoy your time and you are free to come back any time you like.