



Speech By  
**Hon. Craig Crawford**


**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Trinity Beach Community Activity Space**

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.33 pm): Smithfield and Northern Beaches locals love to get together. One of the most popular community halls in the Barron River electorate is at Coast Watcher Park in Trinity Beach. The existing community space is incredibly popular, hosting more than 470 events, with over 1,000 attendees, in 2022 alone. The Smithfield and Northern Beaches population is expected to grow by 25 per cent in the next 15 years to more than 52,000 people. That is why this year's state budget will include a \$935,000 investment in a new centre which will be a focal point for the local community. The new centre will help to strengthen social networks as the community grows. With the availability of a bigger and better space, the community will be able to enjoy even more gatherings and activities where they can socialise, share and learn. The Palaszczuk government is pleased to partner with the Cairns Regional Council to deliver this great project.

The new community activity space, CAS, will be delivered in partnership with Cairns Regional Council under a fifty-fifty funding arrangement. The facility is envisaged to be around twice the size of the existing facility currently in Coast Watcher Park. It will replace the outdated 40-year-old Trinity Beach Community Centre, which no longer meets the needs of a growing Smithfield and Northern Beaches community. The CAS will be adjacent to the Trinity Beach kindergarten and Northern Beaches Youth Activity Space. In its current state, the CAS is an unattractive building, with sections added over the years. The size of the main hall currently is inadequate, toilets do not meet Disability Discrimination Act requirements and the layout does not suit the primary purpose. The CAS is more than 40 years old, is no longer fit for purpose and has insufficient capacity to meet community demand.

A new community activity space will become a focal point for local residents to connect, gather, learn, share and play. Some of its current uses include story time and even kindy. Boot camps and martial arts, sewing art and singing classes also use the facility. It is used by Rotary and Alcoholics Anonymous as well. It hosts weddings, birthday parties and anniversaries—pretty much everything. The growing community of Smithfield and the Northern Beaches deserves a bigger and better space to meet and connect with local events. I want to thank the Cairns Regional Council for their advocacy. They have met with me a number of times, as have the members for Cairns, Cook and Mulgrave. There was a list of things that they brought to us in the lead-up to this sitting week. I acknowledge them for their outstanding work. Today, the Palaszczuk government has delivered.