




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Spencer Motorcycle

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.15 pm): On Saturday week, 29 April, Ipswich will host its annual planes, trains and automobiles event at the Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum. As someone interested in historical motorcycles, I was excited to recently learn that front and centre at the display will be the Spencer motorcycle. This will be the first time that the Spencer motorcycle will be seen and appreciated by a large group of people, including me.

The significance here is that the Spencer motorcycle was handcrafted by David Spencer, who worked at the Ipswich railway workshops. The motorcycle is referred to as No. 8 and classified as a veteran—circa 1906-08, which makes it around 116 years old. Ten of these distinctly Australian racing bikes were built by Spencer and only two remain—the No. 3 and No. 8. These two motorcycles were donated and entrusted to the Historical Motor Cycle Club of Queensland in 1985 by David Spencer's daughter. The motorcycles were what is referred to as a basket case and were donated to the museum.

In 2019, the then president of the Historical Motor Cycle Club of Queensland, the late Paul Reed, and the immediate past president, Dave Dettmar, led negotiations with the museum to have access to and fully restore the motorcycle. In July 2021, all parts from the Queensland Museum were delivered to Dave Dettmar and his team who worked to restore the motorcycle, which was then transported to the railway museum on 4 February this year.

I want to name and acknowledge the many people—apologies if I miss some—who played a pivotal role in this project. I acknowledge the CEO of the Queensland Museum Network, Dr Jim Thompson; senior curators at the Queensland Museum, Phil Manning and Jennifer High; and the extremely dedicated team of HMCCQ—Dave Dettmar, Doug Jolliffe, Ian Rennie, Rob Blackmore, Ian Dugdale, Barry Deeth, Steve Hood, John Wellings, Chris Stephan and Gavin Dell'Osto. I also want to thank Mark and Marita Williamson who helped me with the material for this speech.

The Ipswich railway workshops have played such a critical role in the history of Ipswich. It built 218 steam locomotives. It employed around 1,500 people at any given time, with more than 3,000 employees recorded after World War II. Those employees took pride in their achievements at the workshops and a community was created within. It had its own cooperative ventures, sporting clubs and service clubs. Workers created their own gardens and outdoor lunch areas—personalising their industrial environment. This is not something that we do not see too often today. It is a source of great pride in our city.

I table some photos and excerpts from the historic motorcycle magazine for the interest of members of parliament who want to have a look at this historical motorcycle.

Tabled paper: Extracts, dated March and April 2023, from the *Journal of the Historic Motor Cycle Club of Queensland Inc.*, titled 'The Historic Motorcycle' [505](#).

It is incredibly beautiful to look at. I take my hat off to all those men and dedicated volunteers who put so much of their heart and soul into restoring this motorcycle. Everyone can come to Ipswich on Saturday week and look at this motorcycle for themselves—the only Australia made historic motorcycle.