




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich Show

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.21 pm): The past weekend marked a very special occasion for Ipswich as we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Ipswich Show. Since 1873 the Ipswich Show has been a source of excitement, fun, entertainment and joy to thousands of visitors young and old. One hundred and fifty years is a pretty big achievement. It was made possible by successive Ipswich show societies over the years. I would like to give a shout-out to the current president, Darren Zanow, who has done an amazing job leading the show society over the last few years. All of his team, all of the volunteers and the participants do an incredible job behind the scenes to make sure the show goes on.

A highlight of the show this year was the visit by the Premier. It made the day a very special one. I know that the Premier has fond memories of the Ipswich Show when she attended high school in Ipswich—as do so many people across the Ipswich region. Many Ipswich families have made it a tradition to attend the show every year, generation after generation. As the Premier mentioned in one of her Facebook posts over the weekend, if you look around at the Ipswich Show you will see everything that makes Queensland great. It certainly is a great event for showing off our region's arts and crafts, local produce, food, performers and community services.

I have been setting up a stall at the Ipswich Show ever since I was elected in 2015. Some of the best things about being at the show are meeting all of the people who come to visit, meeting the other stallholders, meeting competition participants and seeing the excitement on kids' faces as they wander around the show with their families. There is a really wonderful sense of community that the Ipswich Show fosters over the three days. It is really special to be a part of that.

Over its 150 years the Ipswich Show has grown bigger and better. It started out with six categories in 1873: horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, agriculture and miscellaneous. Since then it has grown to have 27 categories. The Ipswich Show is a major drawcard event for Ipswich, both socially and economically. It boosts our local economy by an estimated \$1 million and brings in thousands of visitors. One of the people I spoke to at the show had come from Adelaide. There were others who had come from the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba. It draws people from far and wide. It did not hurt that the weather was so perfect over the weekend.

The Queensland government has recognised the important contribution of our show through its investment of \$136,000 over the past five years to support the show's operating costs and all of the costs associated with new infrastructure or upgrades and maintenance. It is made possible through the Show Societies Grants Program, which distributes around \$2 million each year to various shows across Queensland to make sure they can keep running into the future.

I want to pay tribute to the show society for the work it has done. It is to be commended for its dedication. I was just texting the show president to find out if they had final numbers of attendees. He told me that around 35,000 people had gone through the show over the last three days. It is a huge event and a great achievement.