




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

ACTING SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Regional Sitings of Parliament, Cairns

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** The people of Cairns have truly shown their enthusiasm for regional parliament by showing up in such significant numbers. It has been great to see so many members of parliament engaging with both the school students and the many people who have come through the gallery. It has been great to see members sharing their knowledge and their enthusiasm for this place and its democracy with those people who have shown that interest in coming along.

It has certainly been a very successful week from my perspective. The Path to Treaty Bill was one of the most respectful debates that I have ever had the privilege to be involved in. I think that it is something that we will one day look back on and feel very proud of. I will not comment on the outcome, but I am proud of the way we conducted a very difficult debate in this chamber. I hope the people of Cairns appreciate just what a special debate that was.

I would like to thank many people. I would like to thank the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and all the table clerks. I would like to thank the attendants and the Sergeant-at-Arms who chose to celebrate his birthday here. That was a big call. I would like to thank the Hansard reporters and the broadcast staff. I appreciated the efforts and attention of the security staff and the great lengths they have gone to to make sure we are safe, ably supported by the members of the Queensland Police Service. The convention centre staff have been a constant presence as well. I also want to thank the education staff and in particular the volunteers in the education centre. For those who had the opportunity to visit the education centre it really was a special place. I was blown away by how excited the kids were to be there. I do want to thank the staff of the Speaker's office. They have done a fantastic job in supporting me this week. Finally I want to thank the project manager for regional parliament, Coralee Kemp, and her assistant, Amanda Beem, who have done an amazing job of keeping us all comforted, fed and watered during our time here. Thank you. It has been a wonderful experience and I hope we do it again really soon.