




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cairns Indigenous Art Fair

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.39 pm): I am exhausted from just listening! I was particularly proud, as I am with any of the ministers in the government that I am proud to be a part of, to be standing with the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts, Minister Enoch, to announce an increase in investment by the Palaszczuk government into the prestigious Cairns Indigenous Art Fair. This includes new investment of \$1.6 million for CIAF over four years to grow the event ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. CIAF showcases First Nations culture, knowledge, arts and artists, and its growth will further build the profile of Queensland's First Nations arts sector but, just as importantly, generate increased economic benefits and wealth creation activities in addition to the cultural and tourism outcomes not just in Cairns but also around the region and across the great state of Queensland.

New additional investment of \$400,000 annually over four years is supporting CIAF to realise its growth ambition, secure its position on the global stage and deliver economic and cultural benefits for Queensland ahead of the world's biggest sporting event in 2032. This uplift builds on the current \$600,000 a year investment made through the Backing Indigenous Arts Initiative and will support CIAF to grow, expanding its reach and delivering job creation activities and new works, exhibitions and arts experiences that connect with community and celebrate Queensland's cultures on the global stage.

The recorded attendance at CIAF last year was over 60,000 people and the art sales exceeded over a million dollars, which is fantastic. This demonstrates not only strong but growing demand. We know that our First Nations cultures continue to get more exposure. We know that over 86 per cent of international tourists who have been marketed to are very keen for Indigenous experiences. This investment will continue to see that opportunity grow.

Additionally, in 2023 CIAF will receive project funding to support two new projects and industry placements. One will be the Coconut Leaf Project, a cross-cultural community project celebrating Torres Strait Islander craft and weaving, with funding through its First Nations commissioning fund. In closing, our investment as a government will support the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair to achieve its vision to grow the sale and distribution of First Nations art from Queensland and expand its profile across not just the state and our nation but around the world.