



Speech By  
**Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

**MOTION**

**Far North Queensland, Service Delivery**

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the private member's motion. I would like to begin by saying how entertaining those on the other side are, and that is all they are—entertaining. I want to comment about the previous speaker. Michael Trout was popular but he did not get elected again and you lost government. What happens is through the democratic process your performance is determined by the people, so you can say what you want in this place but the decisions are made by the people out there and all of your people got kicked out.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr HEALY:** Sorry, Mr Acting Speaker. Their government and their representatives up here lost the support and they did not get re-elected. This is how it works. They can say what they want in here but the real decisions are made by the people out there. I remind the House of the appalling situation this city was left in during the term of the Newman government and how the Palaszczuk government has picked up the pieces after Campbell's cuts and his absolute chaos. We have reinvested and revitalised the region that was decimated by the worst kind of LNP economic management and decision-making. It was absolutely appalling.

Let us briefly cast our minds back to the Newman government's woeful performance and litany of destruction they left behind. There were 14,000 Queenslanders sacked and we were not immune in Cairns, with hundreds of jobs in the health sector lost. A lot of those people were my friends and they lost their jobs. Key projects for transport and community infrastructure had their allocated budgets slashed, stalling economic progress and sucking the confidence out of the region. TEQ lost staff and they lost money to be able to market the destination. We had absolutely no support up here whatsoever.

We can contrast that to the last three terms of this government that has had to step into the breach. I have been very proud to be a part of this government as we have made some significant changes. Let me start with the Cairns Shipping Development Project. When the LNP held the reins and they had their elected members here in Cairns, they totally supported it, with an allocation of \$40 million to a project that was going to cost over \$100 million—they fooled the people of this city. We got in, we spent \$127 million, we got it done in the most environmentally sensitive way and we are now seeing the benefits of cruise ships coming in. We are getting closer every day to home porting. That is an investment. That is \$20 million on our wharf which we were all on the other night. That is a Labor investment. You never made it when you had the chance.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr HEALY:** Sorry, Mr Acting Speaker. They never made it when they had the opportunity, and the people of this city know this. The people are acutely aware of this.

There were recent decisions in relation to our marine college. This was put there by a Labor government, and now we are spending another \$16 million expanding that because that is the future. We are building a future. There was not one thing that the LNP gave for the future. It was all about themselves. If they ever get near power again, they will cut things and reduce the ability for people to be able to grow, particularly in regional areas.

We know up here. We are seeing hundreds of millions of dollars in roads. We are seeing over \$93 million in my term being spent in education. We are seeing significant money spent in the tourism industry. We are seeing \$200 million in the aviation sector. There is over \$150 million from the Queensland government and another \$150 million from the federal government—that is a \$300 million investment—and I cannot tell you what opportunity that provides for our kids and the future of this city.

When they talk about their city, they talk about themselves; they do not talk about a collective. When I stand here and talk, I talk about my community, what we need and where we are going. We have had hundreds of millions of dollars in investment. We will continue to invest. I tell you what—here is a really good one: if I am not mayor by the end of the term, one of us is a liar. That is just an observation I would like to share. I will make that statement right now. We have heard this claim—

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I believe that language is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr HEALY:** I withdraw. I suspect that if I am not wearing the robes—and I know that will frustrate some on that side because they would possibly look good—but if that is not the case, one person here is misinforming the House. It would not be the first time they have not only misinformed the House but are not honest with the people of this city and not honest with the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland will not forget what you did when you were last in.

**Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair.