




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Cairns Electorate

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.55 pm): I will probably do something a little outrageous and not look at my notes but speak from the heart, so this might go a bit longer. I want to acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues and echo the remarks made about how good it is to have all of you here in this spectacular part of the world. In the six years that I have been a member of parliament, not one kid from Cairns has come through Parliament House in Brisbane. To have so many kids come through this chamber and to know them and their teachers has been absolutely fantastic. I say to Minister Grace that what adds to that is the significant investment that we are making in education. We can see it. For those who came to see the great hall at Cairns State High School I can say that that is just one of a number of significant investments. The Premier made the commitment to that school and the outcome is absolutely impressive. Clontarf conduct fantastic work.

The Minister for Health has made fantastic announcements for projects that are very much needed. While we knew that the commitment had been made, to see soil turned on the \$70 million investment into a mental health facility and the \$26.5 million investment into the Cairns Hospital emergency department is so important. Ours is a growing city and that investment is very much welcomed.

I acknowledge that we have challenges with youth crime. We have seen significant investments made in that area and we will continue to see significant investments being made. Unfortunately, too frequently I meet with people who have suffered because of crime. It is a tragedy. I will continue to meet with those people because that is my responsibility. However, I have great faith in the amendments that we have introduced, the laws that we have changed and what we are doing. I want to recognise everybody on this side of the chamber because we do not in any way, shape or form hide from our responsibilities. This is a tough job and we are up for it. As a government we have proven that by doing a lot of tough things and we will continue to do that.

I make special mention of the Minister for Housing. Because I am going to run out of time I will say that I love all the ministers, but I mention the Minister for Housing in particular for the extremely difficult position I continually put her in. Today we met with the Cairns Alliance of Social Services along with the Minister for Police, the Minister for Children and the Attorney-General. It was so impressive to have so many important ministers—predominantly women, which is terrific because we know that things will get done—at that meeting. I am proud that you are in my city; I am also proud to show you off to the people of my city and acknowledge the work that you all do. I mean that. I acknowledge the Premier for the commitments that she and her cabinet have made. It is an absolute pleasure to be part of this government. You are welcome back any time.