




Speech By
Michael Healy

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cairns Electorate

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.40 pm): This week we heard from both the Premier and the Minister for Tourism that last week was a very big week in Cairns at the newly refurbished and expanded \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre. I want to touch on Destination IQ, which is our focus on Indigenous tourism which was held on the Wednesday of last week, and DestinationQ, which was held on the Thursday. Destination IQ truly was an absolutely fantastic event with over 300 participants in what is a growing and very popular event. I want to congratulate Cameron Costello, Rhonda Appo, Shae Davis and QTIC's Indigenous Champions Network for putting together a fantastic event. I want to acknowledge their work. I also want to acknowledge DestinationQ, with over 700 operators turning up for that on the Thursday. I want to acknowledge Elsa Dalessio and Brett Fraser for the work that QTIC does and TTNQ's Mark Olsen and his team. They continue to make a fantastic contribution, as does the team at Tourism and Events Queensland under the new CEO, Patricia O'Callaghan. She is doing an absolutely fantastic job.

I also wanted to note that last week there was a visit by the opposition leader. It was very brief; it was very quick. I thought that that might be an opportunity to have a quick look through the 'Right wing priorities for a few' document. I scurried through the document and found two references to tourism—two references to tourism and that was it. I then looked at the Towards Tourism 2032 document. This document was put together by tourism expert Liz Savage who worked in conjunction with Andrew McEvoy, who has headed up the South Australian Tourism Commission and Tourism Australia. This was a 12-month consultation with the tourism industry. I compared that document to the 'Right wing priorities for a few' document. The Towards Tourism 2032 document has extensive and detailed analysis, a budget and an action plan. The industry has worked together and there has been extensive consultation, so after comparing the two I thought, 'That is typical. The fraud continues.' Whilst the minister was announcing significant investments in new funding for building bush tourism and double funding for the growing tourism fund, the opposition leader just turned up, said hello and walked away. The fraud continues.