




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR HILL

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ADJOURNMENT

Kurrimine Beach, Boat Ramp; Innisfail Bowls Club

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.18 pm): With the budget just around the corner, I point out two projects in my electorate that are waiting to get the green light. In regional coastal areas, our beaches, islands and outdoor lifestyle are a huge attraction for locals and visitors, but we do not have up-to-date modern facilities. Kurrimine Beach near Innisfail is a beautiful spot, with a number of islands close by. Kurrimine Beach has been held back significantly because of the lack of a decent boat ramp to meet current demand and to market the region as a priority tourism and fishing destination. For example, the annual Kurrimine Beach Fishing Classic cannot expand, with many attendees highlighting the difficulties and safety aspects around the launching and retrieval of vessels at the tournament.

A new facility would also limit the threat of box jellyfish and crocodiles which are a constant worry for locals and visitors. While an upgraded boat ramp facility has been on the drawing board for the last 20 years, momentum has gained over the last four years, with me, the local community, council and TMR holding numerous meetings to finalise the design of a modern new boat ramp facility.

Late last year the Minister for Transport and department heads met with the Kurrimine Beach Safe Boat Access Committee and me, and the Cassowary Coast mayor and council committed to funding the foreshore development of the project. The plans are already completed and approved. All that is required now is the funding to be committed from the state government towards the construction of the boat ramp.

The Innisfail Bowls Club overlooks the north and south Johnstone rivers and is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year. Recently there was combined funding provided towards stabilisation earthworks to stop the club's facility from sliding into the Johnstone River. In a region located in the Wet Tropics, with an annual rainfall of 3.6 metres and extreme hot and humid conditions, it is unbelievable that the club operates without any form of all-weather covering over the bowling greens. A bowling green canopy will provide a safe playing environment, increase the use of the green all year round, increase membership and usage from local community groups and schools, and attract major competitions to the region.

We constantly hear about the billions being spent on the 2032 Olympics, while regional Queensland facilities are either crumbling or desperately in need of upgrades or replacement. There is an opportunity here for just a small outlay in comparison to the billions being spent in the south-east to be included in the upcoming budget towards both of these valuable regional infrastructure projects.