




Speech By
Adrian Tantari

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Hervey Bay, Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (7.10 pm): Hervey Bay has a diverse range of community groups. I am proud to say that the passion and commitment that these groups show has resulted in almost \$1.8 million being delivered over the past few years to local community organisations to build better infrastructure and provide better services to the people of Hervey Bay under the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The Gambling Community Benefit Fund goes directly to helping regional communities such as Hervey Bay by providing funds for local organisations so that they can keep supporting our communities to engage with each other.

One of the successful recipients of the last round of funding was the Fraser Coast Men's Shed, located in Hervey Bay. Last year, Fraser Coast Men's Shed president Laurie Hunt advised me that the Fraser Coast Men's Shed was not going to be able to continue its lease in its current location and would have to find a new location. The Fraser Coast Men's Shed provides a range of activities to its members including a very well constructed active model trains display as well as its accompanying beautifully crafted township. Finding a new fit-for-purpose location was not going to be an easy task for them. Undeterred, the Fraser Coast Men's Shed continued to fundraise, applied for funding and continued its regular meetings thanks to the generosity of shed member Ray Drysdale, who continues to host the group until a new shed is available.

Round 118 of Gambling Community Benefit Fund funding will assist the group to build a new 12-by-six-metre shed with a grant of over \$34,000 on land that has been subleased at the Hervey Bay Uniting Church. The shed has also been supported by Hervey Bay RSL sub-branch, with funding for lighting, power and air-conditioning also being sought through them. I am told that the group will be meeting with a builder on Thursday to finalise shed design and that, should all go well, the first sod for the new shed will be turned in late March, with a completion date by the end of May.

This is a great example of how my community has pulled together to relocate a fabulous group that gives so much to its members by providing an outlet for men to indulge in their collective passions and share a camaraderie that supports one another, particularly as some often go through a very bad patch before coming to the shed as members.

I want again to congratulate Laurie Hunt and the group for their work in securing the grant and raising the funds needed to keep the Fraser Coast Men's Shed running. It is clear that when the Miles government supports local organisations they support each other. That is exactly what the Fraser Coast Men's Shed does for our community. I take this opportunity to thank the Miles government for continuing to deliver support to the Hervey Bay community through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.