




Speech By
Barry O'Rourke

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

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ADJOURNMENT

Rockhampton, Netball

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.15 pm): We had community cabinet in Rockhampton last week and there were several great announcements. I will talk about some of these announcements over the coming parliamentary sittings. One that both the member for Keppel and I had lobbied for was for the initial funding for Rockhampton netball. I was thrilled to hear there was a \$5 million commitment from the Miles government to help Rockhampton Regional Council develop detailed plans, costings and gaining relevant approvals for a new home for netball in town.

The Rockhampton Netball Association is one of the largest participant sports associations in Rocky, with approximately 2,800 registered members. When they have their competitions, they have to play from daylight to dark to get through all the games over a weekend. The sport has continued to grow, welcoming a few new teams each year of about 10 additional players. Netball currently operates at Jardine Park, but it is a well-known fact that the facility is ageing and it is insufficient to meet the growing participation numbers. It is proposed that netball will relocate to a new home within the proposed Rockhampton sports precinct, where it is planned to include 16 outdoor hard courts, a new clubhouse and change room facilities, along with a community play space. Our government's commitment will assist with the detailed design, costings and approvals. This commitment once again demonstrates the Miles government's commitment to regional Queensland and, of course, our goal to see more women and girls getting involved in organised sport. A new home for netball in Rockhampton will help make this a reality.

Netball is an integral part of the Rockhampton sporting landscape. We have a proud tradition of producing wonderful athletes and providing the best possible facilities for future generations will keep that tradition going. Jardine Park has been important for growing netball in Rocky, but it is time to look at a more suitable place to truly expand. The proposed new facility will be a fantastic addition for netball in Rockhampton, as well as the wider community. It will take netball to a new level. It will be a wonderful asset for Central Queensland. It may even attract visiting nations as a training venue ahead of the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.