




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

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ADJOURNMENT

Boyne Tannum HookUp

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (7.58 pm): I was going to allow the member extra time, but once he started that I was ready to jump!

I rise tonight to make a contribution about Australia's largest family fishing competition, held in my electorate: the Boyne Tannum HookUp, now in its 29th year. I could not be prouder of this amazing competition and the incredible team of volunteers, led by Karen Windress, who pull this event together. From its humble beginnings in 1996, an idea born from locals Darryl 'Dags' Branthwaite—not Daryl Braithwaite—Zach and Paul Simmons and Ned Beaumont, this competition now attracts thousands of visitors from around Australia for the three-day festival of fishing and entertainment showcasing the natural beauty of the southern Great Barrier Reef where I live.

In the Gladstone region we are boating and fishing mad and here are some of the stats from the weekend. Over 28,000 visitors streamed through the gates of the three-day competition, over \$450,000 in prizes was given out, some 300 volunteers worked across the weekend, 41 teams registered and 1,200 fish were weighed in on the weekend. The biggest catch of the competition was a black jewfish weighing in at 22.058 kilograms and it was reeled in by young Kurt Sherwood, who is a friend of my son's from Benaraby. He won \$1,000 in HookUp cash, the HookUp Elite Angler Trophy and a fantastic Double Threat fishing charter. Eight of the local organisations in the region benefited from the proceeds of the event including the Boyne-Tannum Rotary, the Lions Club of Boyne Island and the Tannum Sands Surf Life Saving Club. There were 837 junior participants in the festival which was held in May.

The Queensland government has always backed this community—and I acknowledge the Minister for Tourism who supports it—whether it be financial support from them or the dredging of the Boyne River mouth to keep the access free for this important river system for the HookUp in the Tannum area. The Boyne-Tannum HookUp not only creates opportunities for the festival itself; it also creates opportunities for our non-profit groups in the Gladstone region: the local footy and soccer clubs and those groups that sell hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. It all puts money back into those local sporting clubs from the Gladstone region with 100 per cent occupancy rate in the local hotels in the area.

I was fortunate enough to be there on Sunday night during the draw of the big boat and saw the live entertainment and the show that goes with it. It was certainly fantastic for our local community to be celebrating such a fantastic fishing festival. If honourable members ever get a chance—and that is not only the members of parliament here tonight but everyone they associate with who likes to bend a rod every now and then—they should make sure they get along to the Boyne-Tannum HookUp next year. I am sure the 30th anniversary edition of the festival will be one not to be missed.