



Speech By  
**Hon. Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Brisbane, Events

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (10.08 am): We need look no further than last weekend to recognise that Queensland is the undisputed major events capital of Australia. Brisbane was bursting at the seams—literally heaving with visitors from interstate and overseas, all drawn to the river city for a host of outstanding major events. Let me run through some of those events: superstar rapper Macklemore was rocking the stage at Riverstage; there was the running of the time honoured Doomben 10,000 as part of the Winter Racing Carnival—I saw a lot of bookies who were happy; a record crowd of 50,000 across two days at the Paniyiri Greek Festival, which, I thought, was fantastic and very well hosted, minister; and more than 27,000 fans saw the Lions maul the Tigers at the Gabba.

At the centre of all of this, as the Premier has touched on, was the Magic Round at Suncorp, the jewel in the crown—a four-day festival of footy, the envy of the nation. This year we kicked it off with game 1 of the Women's State of Origin at Suncorp Stadium on Thursday night. Once again Queensland has set the record for the nation by hosting a record crowd of more than 25,000 for this fantastic women's event.

Over the next three days we had 16 NRL clubs go head to head in front of a record combined crowd of over 149,000, meaning the event was completely sold out. If there is any other example needed for how important events are, this is one of them. The economic impact of Magic Round is undeniable. Nearly half of all tickets sold came from interstate or from our friends across the ditch in New Zealand. That is terrific news for our visitor economy and good for Queensland jobs. As buzzing Caxton Street was closed to all traffic to create a true festival atmosphere, even those who did not hold a ticket had a fantastic night and day there.

There are predictions that occupancy rates over the weekend reached 100 per cent—which is terrific after the challenging start to the year we have had in some areas—and the economic benefit could be up to \$50 million. This is excellent news for local hospitality and hotel businesses across our city and, most importantly, across our state.

The great news is that Magic Round is here for the next three years, as the Premier touched on. The Miles government has secured the event for Queensland at its spiritual home, Suncorp, for the next three years. This is fantastic for everybody who has been involved: not just for the businesses, not just for the tourism sector, but also for those people who are employed and those people who are in close proximity to that particular event.

I was very pleased to join with the Deputy Premier, the Lord Mayor and the ARLC Chairman, Peter V'landys, on Friday as part of an important partnership that could deliver up to \$150 million for the Queensland economy. Bring on the next three years of magic!