



Speech By  
**Hon. Michael Healy**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Community Support and Services Committee, Report**

 **Hon. MP HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Sport) (3.49 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the debate of the Community Support and Services Committee report on estimates. I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the committee chair, the member for Hervey Bay, and of all the other committee members: the members for Burnett, Maiwar, Cook, Oodgeroo and Nicklin. They all did a wonderful job.

In the first budget of the new Miles government we are doing what matters for Queenslanders—that is, most importantly, delivering the biggest cost-of-living relief in Queensland's history. In my portfolio responsibilities as the Minister for Tourism and Sport, the estimates hearing discussed the work we are doing to support all Queenslanders to live a healthier and more active lifestyle through participating in sport whether at community, organised or elite levels. A significant focus of this year's budget is to provide support for families to participate in sport or active recreation activities in light of the current cost-of-living pressures. We know from a mental health perspective how vitally important it is to get out and enjoy recreational activities.

The hearing discussions included the \$60 million being provided to expand the FairPlay voucher program, making every Queenslanders from five to 17 years eligible for a voucher. There are up to 300,000 vouchers available—increased from 50,000. The value of each voucher has also increased, from \$150 to \$200, to help reduce the cost of sports memberships, registrations and participation fees for families at registered clubs across the state. An additional \$9.5 million has been allocated under the Minor Infrastructure Program for 50 shovel-ready community sport infrastructure programs.

The Queensland Academy of Sport was thoroughly examined, with the Queensland government committed to ensuring elite Queensland athletes in Olympic and Paralympic sports receive the support they need to shine on the world stage. As we saw in the recent Olympics, we have done extremely well. A four-year investment of \$72 million in the QAS will continue the delivery of Queensland Academy of Sport's 2032 High Performance Strategy. This will enable the Queensland Academy of Sport to retain more than 100 high-performance practitioners and give over 500 QAS supported athletes access to premium facilities and the latest in sports technology as we get closer to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

**A government member:** An excellent result!

**Mr HEALY:** It is an excellent result. I take the interjection. This is on top of the \$60.65 million allocated to the Queensland Academy of Sport over four financial years, commenced in July 2021, to begin delivery of the 2032 strategy.

In the vitally important tourism portfolio, the hearing discussed Tourism and Events Queensland's base funding, which will continue to be supported with \$125 million in 2024-25. The Queensland government is backing its lead marketing agency as the demand for Queensland continues to grow. Tourism and Events Queensland plays a fundamental role in that process. The multiyear funding guarantee recognises the importance of tourism as an industry that supports our regions and, most importantly, sustains good, strong Queensland jobs. It also provides more security and the ability to forward-plan to deliver high-impact global marketing campaigns to drive outcomes in line with the Towards Tourism 2032 strategy. In contrast, when the LNP were in government they cut 35 staff and \$188 million from Tourism and Events Queensland's budget.

During the hearing, I outlined that we were well and truly underway with the construction of the game-changing ecotourism offering in Far North Queensland that is the Wangetti Trail. I asked the Leader of the Opposition if he would complete the Wangetti Trail, and he refused to commit to the project—very disappointing. People in my part of the world—the Far North—would know about that. Cutting this project would be a tragedy for the Far North Queensland tourism industry, as the Wangetti Trail will attract thousands of new visitors into the region and is set to inject over \$300 million into our local economy. The first section of the trail is nearly completed and will be opened in the coming months. This is just one of 127 ecotourism projects we have provided \$149 million towards since 2015, 87 of which are complete with a total project value of over \$369 million. It is worth noting that more time was given to the opposition and crossbenchers to ask questions during the estimates hearing this year. They had more time than ever and did not use their time well.