




Speech By
Stephen Bennett

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

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ADJOURNMENT

Wide Bay Promo Night

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.47 pm): Whether from the Coral Coast, the Fraser Coast, Maryborough or Callide, our Wide Bay icons are coming to Parliament House tomorrow night. David Lee, John Barounis and I are bringing the Wide Bay to parliament for a special roadshow celebrating the region's excellence. I take this opportunity to remind all MPs to come along. I will be shamelessly boasting to everyone here tonight just how awesome our region is.

Our promo night will showcase the region's finest produce, attractions and award-winning businesses. Our region will be well represented with the likes of Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers, Bundaberg Rum, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, Downer, Hyne, Maryborough Military and Colonial Museum, Ocean King Prawns, Artificial Turf Qld, and Kingfisher Bay Resort and Village. Our local chambers of commerce, our councillors and many more will make a special appearance.

We first launched this event in 2012. I am very proud to once again bring the region's unbeatable produce, unique tourism opportunities and thriving organisations to Brisbane. It is no secret that I am incredibly proud of this region and what we have to offer, and I look forward to being able to shine a spotlight on our icons tomorrow.

Having these amazing products and services all under the one roof at Parliament House is great exposure for our region. It is a valuable opportunity to highlight the strength, diversity and community spirit of our electorates—from small family owned business to large businesses, from charitable organisations to industry groups. I give a shout-out to Regional Development Australia and our collective staff for the huge effort they have put into making tomorrow night what it will be. Their hard work and dedication are what make our region such a dynamic and welcoming place. We thank them for it.

I know that the member for Maryborough, John Barounis, is very proud and eager to highlight local businesses and Maryborough's rich heritage and growing tourism appeal. Maryborough is home to many beautiful heritage listed buildings that attract visitors from near and far. David Lee is also a very proud local member who cannot wait to show off the tourism mecca of Hervey Bay with great food, hospitality and accommodation.

A government member: They've got nice scallops.

Mr BENNETT: And nice scallops; I take the interjection. The Wide Bay promo night aims to foster greater awareness and collaboration across electorates while celebrating the achievements and character of our regional communities. I look forward to inviting the likes of Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers CEO Bree Watson back to the House. She has been with us from the start. I thank them very much for their effort. It provides a valuable platform to showcase the exceptional variety of produce grown in our region and an opportunity for our stakeholders to engage directly with ministers and shadow ministers.

Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers also partners with Foodbank Queensland for this event, with all showcased produce donated to support their vital food relief efforts. I cannot wait to show off the Wide Bay to all of our MPs tomorrow and I look forward to seeing you there. If you have not already RSVPed, it is not too late. Let's welcome Bundaberg Tourism, Kalki Moon, Mon Repos, Tinaberries, PCCC, Lychee Divine, Fraser charters, Economic Development Queensland, Downer and, of course, all things archery as we celebrate the Olympic Games and archery in Maryborough. See you tomorrow night!