



Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba Electorate; Carnival of Flowers

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.40 pm): I want to invite all of the members here after a long week in parliament up to Toowoomba. Join the half a million people who will be coming to Toowoomba for the Carnival of Flowers. There are loads of different events on. The main parade is this Saturday. The first parade was held in 1950, so it has been going on for a long while. There will be half a million people coming and there are a lot of different events.

You might have heard about our music previously in the park. It has changed this year. This year it will be local artists with local food suppliers, so come and have a glass of wine, come to the 'festival' where food and music will be re-imagined. It will be a great night out for people to enjoy the parks. People particularly want to come for the gardens. We have some private gardens open where people have spent years and years preparing their garden so that the coaches and the tourists can come through and have a look and just enjoy what is blooming gorgeous in Toowoomba this time of year.

There are a couple of other special things going on this year. For the first time we will have a Paw Parade. Our furry friends and their families will be joining a parade. I have already heard from a couple of the staff here at parliament that they are planning on coming up and bringing their dogs. I really look forward to everybody enjoying Queens Park and all of the parks. The University of Southern Queensland has one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in the world, outside of Japan. It is well worth a visit, with a beautiful new pavilion. For any relatives who are vision-impaired there is a scent garden they can go and visit. It is well worth a family trip up to Toowoomba.

There is a lot of action going on. For us in Toowoomba, it is a really important event. It supports local business. It really supports all of those small businesses in Toowoomba that are waiting for this time of year to spark up and serve tourists as they come for a visit. The schools, the businesses and the volunteers will all be out on the street encouraging everybody to come and enjoy everything that is Carnival of Flowers in Toowoomba.

If you have time this weekend—it also runs for a couple more weeks—come and enjoy all of the great things about our fantastic city, which is just a 1½-hour drive from here. Jump in your car, grab family, friends and a bottle of wine. Come and enjoy some music, take in the flowers and spend a bit of time relaxing and calming down after the excitement of a parliamentary week. Thank you all very much. See you at the carnival!