




Speech By
Terry James

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2026

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Cairns Southern Growth Corridor

 **Mr JAMES** (Mulgrave—LNP) (2.32 pm): The Cairns Southern Growth Corridor is the primary region designated for the long-term expansion of Cairns, stretching south from Edmonton to Gordonvale. This corridor is expected to support roughly 37 per cent of Cairns' total population growth between 2021 and 2046. Gordonvale serves as the southern anchor for this growth corridor.

There is a growing emphasis on harnessing Gordonvale's rich history and heritage through the development of cultural tourism opportunities. This unique character of Gordonvale is shaped by multiple layers of architectural styles, each reflecting the town's evolving social and economic landscape, closely tied to the gold, tin, timber and sugar industries. Importantly, Gordonvale's distinct country town atmosphere remains largely intact which contributes significantly to its appeal.

Initial meetings have begun regarding possible land acquisition to enable the relocation of the Mulgrave History Museum. The vision is to establish a substantially larger, modern, interactive history museum and community facility designed to attract visitors with an interest in local history, stories and cultural experiences. The proposed facility will feature a research centre for the Mulgrave Shire Historical Society, a community meeting room, workshop spaces, long-term archival storage and information centre. This strategy supports the preservation of Gordonvale's unique character, while expanding the region's traditional tourism offerings which are primarily focused on reef and rainforest attractions. By enhancing its cultural tourism options, the Cairns-Mulgrave region can appeal to a broader range of visitors.

In addition to its cultural assets, Gordonvale is home to natural landmarks like Walshs Pyramid in the picturesque Mulgrave Valley. This feature further enhances the town's attractiveness for tourists seeking combined cultural and outdoor experiences. The emphasis on cultural tourism aligns with the region's economic prospects and residential attractiveness, positioning Gordonvale as a balanced and desirable destination for the future. In support of these aims, collaboration is underway with the Gordonvale Cultural Precinct Steering Committee to initiate planning for the Gordonvale Cultural Precinct. This includes a landmark three-storey cultural facility designed to reflect Gordonvale's architectural character and tropical setting while also meeting contemporary museum standards. The overarching goal is to preserve the village atmosphere of Gordonvale—Gordy, as the locals call it—and find opportunities to celebrate and showcase this unique identity to both residents and visitors.