



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**


**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Stradbroke Flyer; Day, Mr G**

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (5.31 pm): I recently had the pleasure of celebrating 30 years of the Straddie Flyer and the Groom family business at the launching of their new boat, *Legacy*. This boat is named in honour of Les Groom who began the family business. The Stradbroke Flyer gold cats water taxi service commenced in 1986 and has grown with the times. Together with *Alley Kat* and *Top Kat*, the service now boasts larger, more comfortable vessels for the commute across beautiful Moreton Bay. There would be very few North Stradbroke Island and Cleveland residents who would not be aware of the iconic water taxis or the flyer shuttle bus which winds its way through Cleveland streets to meet with other transport services and the Cleveland shopping precinct.

As a family owned and operated business, commuters are known on a first name basis to the Grooms and the Stradbroke Flyer staff. Parents feel secure in the knowledge that children travelling to and from school on the mainland are in trusted hands for their journey across the bay. Likewise, visitors and tourists only have to ask the friendly staff for assistance and they will be rewarded with as much valuable local information as they need.

I am sure that I speak for many of my constituents, especially those living or holidaying on North Stradbroke Island, in saying a big thank you to the Groom family for their very important contribution to the Redlands. I congratulate the Groom family on 30 years of service to North Stradbroke Island and wish them continued success with their operations.

While I am on marine themes, I would also like to make mention of another local business and businessman in my electorate of Cleveland. Graham Day has been the owner of Wellington Point Marine, a local fishing and tackle store, for the last 15 to 16 years. Graham recently retired from his business in Wellington Point.

This small, local business had a large impact on the local recreation fishing and boating community. The business catered for almost everything one could imagine for recreational fishing, from tackle and rods to bait. Everything was packed into the small but very much loved shop. Graham was always ready to share his local fishing knowledge and advice to local recreational fishing enthusiasts. He has proved his willingness and kindness to share his expertise over many years.

Graham has done a great job in serving many locals and visitors. He knows so much about local fishing matters that he was a one-stop information centre in himself. I personally visited his shop at Wellington Point and invested very heavily over the years in rods, reels and things like that and benefited from his advice. Graham ran a great local business and he will be missed. However, I welcome the new owners, Chris and Donna Joy, and staff and look forward to their long success also.