FIONA SIMPSON CONGRATULATES CAIRNS YOUTH PARLIAMENT PARTICIPANTS

The Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Fiona Simpson, today officially opened proceedings of the Cairns Youth Parliament and chaired its first session.

Ms Simpson congratulated all of the students involved and said that the Youth Parliament provided the participating students with a parliamentary experience based on the procedures of the Queensland Parliament.

“It is wonderful to see Youth Parliaments occurring in regional Queensland and especially here in Far North Queensland,” Ms Simpson said.

“I applaud the Cairns Youth Parliament Members for demonstrating their active interest in how our Parliamentary system works and for having their say on the issues that matter to them.

“I hope that the students participating today will be inspired by this Youth Parliament and take on an even greater role in Queensland’s democratic process,” Ms Simpson said.

Today’s event at the Cairns Colonial Club saw 96 students from 15 different Far North schools participating.

Ms Simpson said that the Youth Parliamentarians debated a motion on electronic devices in Queensland schools with students then having the opportunity to speak on matters of importance to them and their community.

“The Youth Members did a wonderful job, speaking from the heart and raising many important issues that face young people from across the Far North,” Ms Simpson said.

“Myself and my fellow Members of Parliament who helped chair today’s debate were most impressed by the standard of speeches and the passion shown.

“I would particularly like to thank the students from the Tagai State School - Paruma Island Campus who were not able to be here in person today but who sent videos of their speeches that were played to all those here this morning,” Ms Simpson said.

Ms Simpson thanked all the schools and teachers who were involved in this event. These participating schools were: Cairns West State School; Cooktown State School; Dimbulah State School; Edge Hill State School; Freshwater Christian College; Freshwater State School; Gordonvale State School; Hambledon State School; Herberton State School; Kuranda District State College; Northern Peninsula Area College; St Andrew's Catholic College; Tagai State School; Trinity Beach State School and Yorkeys Knob State School.

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