



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday, 14 September 2017

CAIRNS YOUTH PARLIAMENT PARTICIPANTS CONGRATULATED

Students from 14 schools in Cairns and the surrounding regions participated in the 2017 Cairns Youth Parliament which was held at the Pacific Hotel in Cairns today. The Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Hon Peter Wellington MP, officially opened proceedings of the youth parliament this morning and then chaired its first and closing sessions.

Mr Wellington congratulated all of the students and schools that participated in the Cairns Youth Parliament, saying that the event provided all with a valuable experience of how Queensland's democratic processes work in their lives.

"On behalf of the Speaker and the Parliament, I thank the youth members from across the Far North Queensland region for all of their hard work in preparing for this event and for having their say on the issues that matter to them.

"It has been a great privilege to preside over and observe the Cairns Youth Parliament and 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," Mr Wellington said.

Today's event at the Pacific Hotel in Cairns saw 85 students participating as Youth Members. Other students assisted as Parliamentary officers. In addition, there were approximately 50 teachers and parents in attendance observing the event.

Mr Wellington said that the Youth Parliamentarians debated two motions, the first on the introduction of healthy eating measures in schools and the second on provisions that should apply at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Students then had the opportunity to speak on matters of importance to them and their community.

"The Youth Members did a great job, speaking from the heart and raising many important issues that face young people from across the region," Mr Wellington said.

"The Member for Barron River, Mr Craig Crawford MP and the Member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP both helped chair today's debate. We were all impressed by the standard of speeches and the passion shown," he said.

The participating schools were:

- Balaclava State School
- Cairns Adventist College
- Cairns School of Distance Ed
- Caravonica State School
- Isabella State School
- Julatten State School
- Millaa Millaa State School
- Mirriwinni State School
- Mourilyan State School
- Our Lady Help of Christians
- Parramatta State School
- St Andrew's Catholic College
- Tolga State School
- Wonga Beach State School

The Queensland Parliament organises and facilitates youth parliament events across Queensland each year.

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