

Parliamentary Friends of Motorsport (3 minutes)

Speaker, I rise today to speak about the recently formed 'Parliamentary Friends of Motorsports' group.

I have teamed up with my Labour counterpart, Luke Gosling OAM, the Federal Member for Solomon, to be the driving force for greater support for motorsports in the parliament.

The Member of Solomon and myself share a passion for motorsport that we wish to share with our colleagues, of all persuasions, in the hope of creating bipartisan support for this important Australian industry

Speaker, we also aim to raise awareness of the significant contribution that motorsport makes to the Australian economy.

The 'Motorsport: Economic contribution to the Australian Economy 2021' report, released last year, estimated that the total gross annual output of Australian motorsports is \$8.6 billion.

The report found that the motorsport industry provided \$3.1 billion in direct output, and \$5.5 billion of indirect output to the Australian economy, based on pre-COVID figures.

The Member for Solomon and myself believe it is important that we support and encourage this sector, which not only provides great entertainment for so many Australians but is an economic powerhouse.

As well as the drivers behind the wheel, many of whom are household names, there are thousands of men and women working behind the scenes.

Without these dedicated employees and volunteers, Australian motorsports – from the Formula One Grand Prix to local club championships – would cease to exist.

The 'Motorsport: Economic contribution to the Australian Economy 2021' report found that the industry supported 16,900 direct jobs and a further 29,900 indirect jobs in 2019.

About 18,900 unpaid officials and volunteers were also involved, creating a total workforce of 65,700 people.

In 2019, prior to the pandemic, 9650 events were held throughout the country, attracting thousands of competitors and fans each week.

Speaker, motorsports have put many Australian towns on the map – I am thinking of Winton (QLD), Symmons Plains (TAS), Taillem Bend (SA), and the best known of them all Bathurst (NSW).

Motorsport events also benefit other sectors of the economy, such as tourism, hospitality, retail, and entertainment venues at local, state, and national levels.

Our aim is to ensure that these towns and events are supported and continue to provide motorsports thrills and spills now and for future generations.

Speaker, in conclusion, I extend an invitation to all of my colleagues here in the House and our counterparts in the Senate to support our recruiting drive and join the 'Parliamentary Friends of Motorsport.'