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**Parliament House – Scouting on the Green Function
Geoff Doo Chief Commissioner
Wednesday 22nd February 2023**

Can I begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to their Elders, Past, Present and Emerging. Can I also acknowledge any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here with us today.

The Premier of Queensland the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Queensland Opposition Leader David Crusafulli MP, Sponsors of this event Jim Madden and Mr Tim Mander, Members of Parliament, Members of Scouts Queensland, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Firstly, to the Honourable Curtis Pitt Speaker thank you – for once again allowing Scouting to visit Speakers Green where we have the opportunity for young people to engage directly with elected representatives and showcase what Scouting has to offer the youth of Queensland.

The Youth of Queensland is a topic on most people's mind now.

Scouting can clearly demonstrate the value we bring to communities through data which highlights that being involved in Scouting makes young people more resilient and provides them a purpose in life.

Scouts Queensland's made a submission to the Queensland Governments **new Youth Strategy in late 2022. We also made submissions to the two following bills**

- **Community Support and Services Committee (Committee) on the introduction of the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Jack's Law) Amendment Bill 2022**
- **Queensland Health regarding the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023.**

These submissions indicate Scouts Queensland's desire to be engaged, supportive and collaborate with Government to bring to life the new Youth Strategy.

Our Strategic plan 2023- 2028 (Summary copies are available to you) consists of 4 Pillars – Member Experience, People and Culture, Sustainability and Operations – with a total focus on empowering young people to their full potential through our youth program.

One significant event ahead for Queensland and Scouting in Queensland is our success in securing the rights to host the next Australian Jamboree – in January 2025 – in Maryborough. This will see an injection of in excess of \$15M dollars into the Queensland economy both pre and post this event which will attract over 10000 participants to the 10 day event. It is anticipated a further 2,000 to 3,000 visitors will visit and spend time in the Fraser Coast and other parts of this great state.

We look forward to engaging with Government to showcase Queensland to visitors from around Australia and overseas as young people and their families descend on Queensland in January 2025.

Today is a special day for Scouting worldwide as we celebrate the birthday of our Founder Robert Baden Powell – who was born on this day 166 years ago . I am sure he would be proud of the Movement he started and where it is positioned today with over 57 million members across 173 countries.

Scouting delivers to our communities, resilient young people who have gained leadership experience, are physically active and care for others.

In closing thank you for your ongoing support of Scouting in Queensland, across the 220 communities we support, our 13500 Members appreciate it.

Please take the time to join in with our young people here today to learn a little more about the Adventurous, Fun, Challenging and Inclusive activities available through Scouting.