




Speech By
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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MEMBER'S PRIVATE STATEMENT

Country Racing

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (2.52 pm): Country towns and country people remember well what the last Labor government did to country racing. The Queensland Country Racing Committee is now fighting a rearguard action to ensure that this particular Labor government cannot again strip the heart out of country racing across Queensland.

The statistics have been put before this House before. We would do well to remember that country race clubs conduct some 279 race meetings each year—a lot more race meetings now than when the former Labor government was in power. Some 12,000 horses participate in those races, with country clubs spending \$1.3 million in advertising the racing industry in Queensland. The Queensland Country Racing Committee has collected figures that indicate some 10,000 people are employed in country racing. The country racing clubs are an essential part of the fabric of rural communities right across Queensland.

The races this weekend are on at Mount Perry. Mount Perry is a race club that has conducted races for about 108 years. When the former Labor government was in power they took away the race meeting at Mount Perry. We returned it. We returned the races to Mount Perry. We brought the races back to Mount Perry. This Saturday when they start in the Mount Perry Cup everybody on the course at Mount Perry will remember what the former Labor government did. Everyone at Mount Perry will be wanting to know what the future is for the Mount Perry races and for country racing generally.

There has been great support for country racing from communities across Queensland—great corporate support. Evolution Mining that operates the Mount Rawdon gold mine at Mount Perry will be the major sponsors of the Mount Perry Cup this Saturday. That is a good example of what has happened across country Queensland. Corporate entities and community members have come together to boost prize money to build country racing from the devastation that was imposed upon it by the former Labor government.

What the country racing community needs now and what the Queensland Country Racing Committee needs now is some assurances from the minister. We need some assurances from the government to give some security to those people who work, mainly in a voluntary capacity, to ensure that race meetings, such as the one at Mount Perry, continue to provide the great community social focus that they have for the last 100 years for the next 100 years. Those people deserve that security. They deserve some information from the minister and some reassurance that this government is not going to cut the heart and soul out of country racing like the former Labor government did.