



Speech By
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Member for South Brisbane; Country Shows

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (12.45 am): On Thursday, 18 February—over two months ago—I made some statements in this House regarding the member for South Brisbane and her behaviour when she was a member of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. At that time the member rejected what I said, even though I believed that my comments were true. It was a situation that happens in this parliament many times every day. At the time the member for South Brisbane rejected the comments she did not ask for a withdrawal.

However, two months after an everyday incident occurred in the House this issue is now taking up time—my time and time within the Speaker's office. Therefore, I want to put an end to this nonsense and withdraw unreservedly the comments that I made, as I would have done had the member found those comments offensive when I made them in the House and as I and many other members have done on many occasions. I withdraw the comments unreservedly and I hope that that can be the end of what is a silly issue.

I really wanted to talk about the country show circuit that is underway in my electorate and to make a point to the members of this House so that they can understand that the decisions we make here have a profound effect on small organisations in country towns across Queensland. When we were in government, the former attorney-general and I made the decision to change the way the licensing laws applied to country shows. At that time it was a significant decision. It has made an enormous difference to the way in which those shows now operate. Instead of having people jammed into small, defined, fenced-in drinking areas, we now have a situation where people can attend those functions and can enjoy the ambience of the whole area in a way that is not aggressive and that does not cause the problems that were being caused by regulations that were put in place by people who did not understand the effects. By putting people into cage-like situations, they were creating more problems than they were solving.

We have had some great shows and the difference has been noticeable. Last weekend the Mount Perry show was held. If members want to see the best woodchopping, they should go to the Mount Perry show to see the Dingle family. It was a great show, because the licensed area was able to extend over the whole of the covered pavilion. The Monto show will be held this weekend. I wanted to make that point so that people in this House can understand that the decisions we make here, whether they be big or small, have a profound effect on people in their everyday lives.