



Speech by

**PHIL REEVES**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

**LANG PARK GRAND FINALS**

**Mr REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (10.12 a.m.): I rise to support the member for Nudgee and to speak about the State League grand final to be played at Lang Park between Norths and Wests. Unfortunately, this game has been forgotten due to the unfortunate clash with the NRL major semifinal at ANZ Stadium.

**An Opposition member:** Are you still here?

**Mr REEVES:** Yes, I am still here, and here to stay—just like the MUA.

The unfortunate aspect of this clash is that it should not have happened. The NRL knew at the start of the season that the QRL had set this 2 p.m. timeslot for the grand final. This 2 p.m. timeslot is due to the Statewide live coverage by the ABC. I know that many constituents of country members, as well as city folk, look forward to this weekly slot. The NRL's dogmatic attitude has sent messages that the bad old days of Rugby League management based in Sydney may have returned. Why did the NRL not set down the match between the Broncos and Sydney City on the Sunday and set down the Sydney semifinal on the Saturday? I hope that this kind of pig-headed attitude is gone by the time it comes to granting us an NRL grand final. I am sure that the convincing arguments and the negotiating skills of the Premier will ensure that not only do we get an NRL grand final but also that the NRL will never again be allowed to clash with our State League grand final.

More importantly, I need to give praise to the QRL for running an effective and high-quality competition. It is great to see sides from Cairns to Coolangatta competing in one competition. I look forward to going to Lang Park on Saturday to watch the Devils play the Panthers, even though my beloved Brothers are not in the big one. However, I wish the Brothers team success in the Colts grade. I take this opportunity to wish friends of mine Dale Williams, Andrew Hamilton and Kevin Carmichael from Norths, and Shaun Valentine and Joel Twohill from Wests well in the final of the State League.

As a Brothers supporter it pains me to say that I believe it will be a case of standing up and cheering for Norths this year. I am sure that the member for Nudgee will be a happy man.

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