



Speech by

**Hon. RUSSELL COOPER**

**MEMBER FOR CROWS NEST**

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Hansard 19 August 1999

#### **OAKEY RACE CLUB**

**Hon. T. R. COOPER** (Crows Nest—NPA) (7.04 p.m.): I want to place on the record of the Parliament the efforts of some people involved in the Oakey Race Club. At the start of last year they had no money, no race track, no running rail, no sponsorship, no race date and no prize money. Right now, out of those six elements, they have five, with one to go—prize money. I want to place on record the efforts of one Mr Mick Gurn, who is president of that race club, as well as Mr Kelvin Williams. While they have had so many barriers and obstacles placed in front of them, they have overcome just about every one of them. They are to be commended, as is the Oakey Race Club committee.

They have a race date now—13 October. That is the date for anyone who is thinking of going out that way for the Festival of the Horse and the Oakey race meeting. I see the Minister for Primary Industries over there; he might care to join me. They deserve the support. They have \$15,000 that they have raised themselves in sponsorship. They have a \$40,000 track upgrade. They have a \$10,000 refurbishment—money from the QPC—and they have a running rail. They are just about all set to go.

The QPC is very admiring of their efforts. I hope that it, too, will recognise the efforts of the Oakey Race Club and the need for prize money. The QPC has done a wonderful job in the administration of racing throughout this State. I plead with it to be able to raise these funds so that the Oakey Race Club can have a very successful race meeting on 13 October during the Festival of the Horse. Their efforts—the efforts of people who will not lie down, who will make every effort in spite of the odds—deserve credit and the recognition of this Parliament. It is my pleasure to be able to recognise those people and I wish them well on 13 October, the Festival of the Horse.

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