



Speech by

Mrs D. PRATT

MEMBER FOR BARAMBAH

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QUEENSLAND RUGBY LEAGUE

Mrs PRATT (Nanango—Ind) (6.57 p.m.): Premier Beattie underpinned his recent success in the election campaign with the slogan jobs, jobs, jobs and he constantly supports the growth of football with his assertions about the joys of the game. Another of his favoured policies is the national competition policy, which is supposed to encourage local manufacturers to vie with each other to deliver products at low and competitive prices. The national competition policy is an acknowledged failure, but that is not fully the point of this argument. The thrust of this argument is to show how rural sporting bodies have been caught up in the fallout of the national competition policy.

The thrust of the argument is that the Queensland Rugby League is not allowing all manufacturers of Rugby League jerseys and shorts to equally enjoy the dubious benefits of national competition policy. In fact, the QRL is acting in a discriminatory and totalitarian manner in franchising only those manufacturers of Rugby League jerseys and shorts that it favours.

For many years, one Brisbane-based manufacturer and supplier of Rugby League jerseys, Peerless, enjoyed cheerful competition with other companies vying for the several contracts that would fulfil the needs of Sought Burnett Rugby League clubs. One attraction of engaging Peerless to supply those jerseys was that the club would be offered, at a very attractive price, one or two of the jerseys worn by a team player in the Sydney competition. The club could then earn much-needed funds by raffling those coveted jerseys. No longer do these Sydney competition jerseys materialise at the same low price. Perhaps it is because the franchise suppliers no longer have a great need to compete. They have the franchise and nobody else can get a look in. The franchise supplier has a sewn-up market because QRL has made it illegal for Rugby League players to wear any other gear on field than that supplied by the franchised jersey supplier. So where is this competition and the jobs, jobs, jobs, and where do our youth in the Burnett go when they cannot buy jerseys?
