



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard 29 April 2003

MOUNT PERRY RACE CLUB

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (7.12 p.m.): This Saturday there will be racing at Mount Perry. It will be the last race meeting at Mount Perry because of the inexcusable assault by this Labor government on country racing. Tonight I want to extend an invitation to the Minister for Racing, Merri Rose, to come with me to Mount Perry next Saturday and explain to the 1,500 or 2,000 people who will be there why after well over 100 years the Mount Perry Race Club is being shut down by this government decision.

There is no excuse imaginable for this valuable social event to be shut down in the way that this state government is endeavouring to do. By any test, the Mount Perry races are a success. There have been in the last two meetings over 1,500 people attend the races at Mount Perry. It is a very successful club that manages to attract a good field of starters in all of its races and has done for many years. More importantly, it has attracted a good crowd to the races every time they have been held, and they have been held twice a year for quite some years now.

In the assault on country racing that this minister has overseen, the Mount Perry Race Club has not been allocated any race meetings at all in the future and inevitably this will be the last meeting. It is inexcusable for this to happen without some sort of an explanation to the people who have been long-time patrons of the Mount Perry club, and it is inexcusable for this to happen to the people who have given their time voluntarily in a lot of roles to build the Mount Perry Race Club to the standard that it is today. It is a great spot. It is a historic course and a very scenic place. It is a day that many people have enjoyed for many years.

Even though Mount Perry is in my electorate, many regular attendees at the Mount Perry races come from the electorates of the members for Burnett and Bundaberg. The member for Bundaberg, in the minister's absence, should take the time to come out to Mount Perry next Saturday. In fact, I extend an invitation to the member for Bundaberg as a minister in the cabinet that made this decision to close down the Mount Perry races to come out with me next Saturday and explain to the great many people who will be there, many of whom will be her constituents, why this government is pursuing this inexcusable course of action and this inexcusable assault on country racing. This is a very successful country race club that has been destroyed by a cynical decision of an arrogant and uncaring government.

Time expired.