



Speech by

Ted Malone

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard Wednesday, 14 November 2007

DEATH OF MR J PEDERSEN; ST LAWRENCE STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA) (10.12 pm): Tonight I rise to pay tribute to a colleague, a friend, a neighbour and a long-time stalwart of the Queensland sugar industry. Jim Pedersen passed away recently. Jim was a great supporter of the industry for more than 30 years. Jim was raised on a farm at Koumala and eventually took over that farm from his parents at a very young age and developed the farm. He then represented the sugar industry firstly through local representation and was then the president of the Canegrowers Association of Queensland and ultimately went on to become vice-president of the World Association of Beet and Cane Growers. Jim was a gentle man and a great advocate for the sugar industry. Quite frankly, he took on the role of president of the Queensland Canegrowers organisation at a time when the industry was in great turmoil and was able to negotiate the industry package that ultimately meant survival for many canegrowers throughout Queensland.

As I said, Jim died at the very young age of 66. His funeral was attended by dignitaries from all over Queensland and there were more than 500 people at his funeral. His wife Carol and their children, Doug, Allan and Sandra, will miss him terribly, as will his local community. Jim was a stalwart within our little community of Koumala. I recollect the time we rebuilt the local hall that was condemned. Jim was right in there with me and many others. We rebuilt the hall and are now in proud possession of a community hall in Koumala. He was also a stalwart of the Uniting Church and had a great voice and was a member of the choir and sang at many of the Anzac parades throughout the Mackay district. As I said, Jim was a great friend. The industry and his family will miss him terribly.

While I have the chance, I want to congratulate Education Queensland for the way in which it was able to rebuild the school at St Lawrence that burnt down on 30 October. By 1 November there was a school in place for the students to come back to. That was really a great effort for Education Queensland and Q-Build to put in place that school within one day of the school burning down. St Lawrence was a historic school. Even though the computers et cetera were covered by insurance, unfortunately a lot of the teachers' and the children's resources were lost in that process.

Time expired.