



Speech by


## Howard Hobbs

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

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### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: MR WH GLASSON

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (9.54 am): On 20 March 1975—exactly 37 years to the day before Bill passed away, on 20 March 2012—Bill Glasson in his maiden speech in this parliament expressed his loyalty to the electors of Gregory and Her Majesty the Queen. He kept that loyalty throughout his parliamentary career and never deviated. He said that he intended to represent the people of Gregory without fear or favour. To any section of the community, his word was his bond: it was rock solid; it was bankable. He also expected the same of others. Someone once said that he was disarmingly trusting. His long-term horse trainer, Billy Wall, once put it, ‘I can’t work that Bill Glasson out. He even trusts horse trainers and jockeys.’ That was a measure of the man.

Before I became an MP I was a mayor of a Western Queensland shire council. I recall one Sunday night I was in Tambo and was surprised to see Bill Glasson get off a Greyhound bus to have a break. He was on his way to Brisbane to parliament. He said he often travelled by bus. I realised he had to be in cabinet at 9.30 the next morning. It was an all-night trip and he would have been lucky to be in Brisbane by six o’clock the next morning. I realised then the dedication he had to his job and his responsibilities as a local member.

Bill had a good grounding for politics being a businessman, a grazier, a flying officer in the RAAF in World War II—in Kittyhawks helping to push back the Japanese in the South Pacific—a Winton shire councillor and through his involvement in many community groups. He had many mates. One comes to mind, Tony Richardson. He was a great bloke. He had an aeroplane—a Cessna 182—and he and Bill would cover the vast area of Gregory that spread from Urandangi to Hungerford. Tony had a rule not to drink within eight feet of the plane and he religiously stuck by that rule!

I will never forget the time I led a delegation of graziers to meet Bill as minister for lands to discuss an outbreak of parthenium weed in their district. Bill listened to their story and request for assistance. He then asked them what they had done to fight the outbreak. When they were very short of words as to what they had actually done, he did what I can only explain as walking around the ceiling waving his arms and asking why the government should help people who will not help themselves. These graziers were big operators and I thought this was going to be interesting. The end of the story was that Bill provided significant funding in the next budget for this project and those graziers put in more than three times the government contribution. It was a good and calculated outcome.

Bill was a very energetic person. He never stopped. We always walked quickly. Even when he left politics and should have put his feet up he did not. He and his mate Randal Chandler were part of a group who organised a Year of the Outback tagalong horse ride from Longreach to the Ekka. They encouraged many people to travel with them as they went on their way. My daughter, Katherine, and I rode with them for a day on their journey. Many people enjoyed their company as they travelled the long paddock on their last big ride. As a matter of interest, one of Bill Glasson’s properties, ‘Mount Arthur’ near Barcaldine, is now owned by my daughter and son-in-law in their family aggregation.

I offer my sincere condolences to the Glasson family. Bill was a great mate, a fine man and someone who was always interested in how you were going. He will be sadly missed but never forgotten. His words and deeds have been etched in history and archived forever in the *Hansard* of this Queensland parliament.