



Speech by


**Hon. Jeff Seeneey**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

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### **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: LAMONT, MR CC**

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.07 am): It is with some regret that I rise to make a contribution to the condolence motion for Colin Lamont. I first met Colin Lamont in 1973. As the Leader of the House just indicated, he was a teacher at Brisbane Grammar School and I was a country kid sent there to boarding school. Colin Lamont had an enormous effect on my life, as he did on the lives of a whole lot of young men who attended the school at that time. He taught me economics and history.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** Very successfully, thank you, Mr Treasurer. Colin Lamont taught me economics and history. Given his background with the Hong Kong police and MI5, as outlined by a number of speakers today, as school boys we certainly were in awe of the sort of person that Colin Lamont was. Colin was the debating master. The school records show that when I was at school I was involved in Rugby and debating. At the time, it was something of an unusual combination, especially for country kids, to be involved in Rugby and debating, but it was because of Colin Lamont. I remember one day we were coming back from football training and Colin said, 'We need some people to go to Clayfield College for debating tonight.' As we all know, Clayfield College is a girls school. Of course, I was not very keen until he said, 'Some intellectual intercourse will do you good.' Being a 17-year-old, I knew what 50 per cent of that meant. So I went and I was a long-term member of the debating club after that at the behest of Colin Lamont, and it was not just because the debating team went to girls schools.

When I was elected to the parliament, one of the first people who made contact with me after many years of not being in contact was Colin. We had a lot of political discussions over the years, especially on areas that Colin had taken a particular interest in—the area of body corporates and unit owners I think became something of a passion of his. He continued to provide me with a deal of advice both about politics and my debating style as Leader of the Opposition in the parliament at a time when this place was much more combative than it is now. I treasure the relationship that I had with Colin Lamont over those years.

I extend my condolences to his family here today. To his sons, I say that your father had a profound influence on a generation of young men of which I was but one, and you can be proud of the legacy that he has left not just in this parliament but in the state as a whole.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!