




Speech by
Jon Krause

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Wednesday, 30 May 2012

BEAUDESERT RACE CLUB

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (10.45 pm): Tonight I want to bring to the attention of the House the Beaudesert racecourse. Racing has a long history in Beaudesert. The Beaudesert Race Club's website sets out a brief history of the club, recording the fact that its first race meeting was held in 1879 in the name of the Logan and Albert Jockey Club. Its present grandstand was built in 1912 and it provided a grand viewing platform for racegoers of the day. In 1927 the Duke and Duchess of York viewed the Bushman's Carnival at the course with one of the biggest crowds ever seen.

Years later, into the 1970s and beyond, midweek race meets were held in Beaudesert and were attended by large crowds on a regular basis. With changes in the economy and the racing industry, times have grown tougher for the racing industry and in particular country racing. In the past decade or two, the Beaudesert region has become home to many training, breeding and spelling facilities in addition to the Beaudesert racecourse.

Mr Johnson: It's one of the biggest training areas.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection. Many trainers and breeders have moved into the district, which has been actively promoted as 'thoroughbred country'. It is estimated that up to 2,000 jobs in the Beaudesert region depend on the equine industry. From trainers to breeders, farmers who sell their produce for horses, vets who work with horses and produce stores that sell their products, the economic benefit to the Beaudesert region is widespread. The Anzac Day races are a highlight in the region's calendar, along with other regular race meets which draw crowds from all over South-East Queensland.

The LNP government is determined to give country racing and country racecourses a sustainable future. Labor had the best part of 20 years in government to facilitate infrastructure upgrades for the Beaudesert racecourse and failed. That is why I have been working hard since the election on 24 March to ensure that the LNP government does all it can to secure the future of the Beaudesert racecourse. The government is reviewing the racing industry in Queensland and also the infrastructure plan that was put together by the former Racing Queensland board.

Work to replace the rails on the track and to construct larger facilities to accommodate a great and growing demand for use of the Beaudesert racecourse as a training facility is essential. On some mornings of the week, there are so many horses assembled for training that there are inadequate tie-up stalls available to accommodate them. Since the election, I have been in the ear of the racing minister and the Treasurer to bring these matters to their attention so that the Beaudesert racecourse can continue to go ahead.

The Beaudesert region is ideally placed for the equine industry. It is a rural area which is close to large racing venues in Brisbane and the Gold Coast and larger regional centres like Ipswich and Toowoomba. I have met with the Minister for Racing on numerous occasions and he knows the importance of this industry to the Beaudesert region. The minister is aware, as is the board of Racing Queensland, that the Beaudesert racecourse has transferred its meets in 2012 in anticipation of infrastructure works commencing. While it is the new board that must carry out the review of the plans, I wish to assure the Beaudesert community that I will continue to lobby the minister and the board of Racing Queensland Ltd to ensure a swift decision on these required infrastructure works for the Beaudesert racecourse.