




Speech by
Jon Krause

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard Wednesday, 28 November 2012

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (5.54 pm): I rise in support of the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. In his explanatory speech the minister has noted that there are 30,000 people in Queensland who rely on the racing sector for their employment and they will have a voice once more. Several hundred of those reside in the Beaudesert electorate so I am very happy to support this bill. I thank the minister for his assistance and attention which he has given to me since the day after the election and for delivering some results for the Beaudesert Race Club and the Beaudesert Racecourse.

In this bill we are implementing part of the LNP's election policy commitments in respect of restructuring the racing industry and rejuvenating country racing. We are amending the Wagering Act 1998 to allow for the provision of our infrastructure funding package. That is an important package to be redirected into the industry, in particular country racing venues, and I am pleased that the Beaudesert Racecourse will be able to benefit from some of that package to support the industry in my area.

There are approximately 200 horses, perhaps a few more, that train in Beaudesert. It is a growing number. It is real thoroughbred country where a lot of people over the last couple of decades have moved in order to train and in order to set up their stables. It is close to the Gold Coast, it is close to Brisbane, it is close to Ipswich and it is also close to New South Wales. The training industry and the spelling industry, the whole equestrian industry in the electorate around Beaudesert, support a lot of jobs: trainers, stock feed retailers, vets, even farmers who sell their excess produce to trainers to feed their horses. It is very important and that is why I am glad that the minister has been able to assist.

We have a proud history of racing in Beaudesert. The first race was held in Beaudesert in about the 1880s. There were several clubs but eventually Beaudesert became the pre-eminent one. Country racing was a part of the social scene. In the seventies and eighties there were hundreds, sometimes even thousands of racegoers visiting Beaudesert Racecourse for weekday meets. Wouldn't it be fantastic if we could go back to those years? I am not sure that we will get to that, but we certainly need to support these country race clubs.

There has been some great progress so far in the electorate. We have a new track—sand and turf. There are some new facilities going in as well. It has been recently announced that there will be fortnightly TAB meets in Beaudesert at the racetrack. That is a great boon for the local racing industry. I thank Racing Queensland Ltd under its new management for that decision. I also thank the minister because I know that through my strong representations to him there has been some representations made to RQL in relation to Beaudesert.

I would like to refer to an article from the *Beaudesert Times* from today titled 'All systems go at race club as work continues.' I table the article.

Tabled paper: Extract from the *Beaudesert Times*, dated 28 November 2012, titled 'All systems go at race club as work continues' [\[1752\]](#).

The first race meet for the new Beaudesert Racecourse will be on 28 January, which is actually the Australia Day holiday. I invite all my parliamentary colleagues to come to Beaudesert and enjoy a great

showcase country race day. It will be a fantastic day. Members will not recognise the facilities if they have been there before.

Mr Costigan: The Kingfishers will.

Mr KRAUSE: The Beaudesert Kingfishers probably will be in attendance, member for Whitsunday. I know a lot of the Kingfishers. They are not only great rugby league players but also great race fans as well. You will be well at home, member for Whitsunday. The fact is that the government is supporting country racing and, in particular for my electorate, is putting Beaudesert back into a gallop. It will be a great day on 28 January. It is part of the Showcase Country Series. It is the first one; Anzac Day will be the next one. The fortnightly TAB meets are fantastic. I know that the whole community will be looking forward to that.

Of course, some issues remain to be resolved. I will be speaking with the minister about them in the future. One is the issue of tenure over racecourses. As many members will know, Racing Queensland Ltd resumed tenure over many local racecourses around the state. In many communities there is a great desire to get that tenure back. They want to return the ownership to community hands, whether it be the race club or another body. If it is not going to be in the hands of the all-codes board, we can look at alternative structures in relation to ownership. Perhaps it will not be just race clubs that are involved in the ownership of a course; we could utilise country racecourses for other community purposes, which would enable them to have a more viable future, relying not only on the racing industry but perhaps looking at other sources of income as well.

In conclusion, I will be supporting the bill. I understand the opposition will be supporting the bill as well, which is fantastic. I thank the minister for all of his assistance. I commend the bill to the House.