




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2016

ADJOURNMENT

Condamine Electorate, Local Shows

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (9.32 pm): Local shows are a very important part of the social fabric of rural and regional communities. They provide an opportunity to showcase our local produce, the small business sector, schools and not-for-profit community organisations to a wide audience.

In April this year I had the honour of opening the 146th Dalby and District Annual Show. The Dalby show was the last of the six local shows held in the electorate of Condamine each year. I attended each six shows respectively: Clifton, Bell, Pittsworth, Oakey, Toowoomba and Dalby. It was very pleasing to observe an increase in the number of entries and attendance at several of these events in 2016. Over the past decade there has been a significant decline in gate takings and entries at many local shows throughout regional Queensland.

Without the volunteers who work tirelessly, dedicating their time to ensure that each show runs smoothly, local shows would not happen. Dalby show president Frank Chiverton and treasurer Rob Parsons both remarked upon the number of volunteers who took a week off their paid employment to help get everything ready for their two-day show. This commitment is both admirable and commendable, particularly in a small community. Each time I meet with a member of a show society executive, a common thread runs through our interactions—the pride they take in their showgrounds, their community and the achievements they have made. It is my hope that this long tradition of local shows will be well supported for many years to come.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Ms Annie Fulton. Annie recently won the Miss Dalby Showgirl and Charity Princess titles for the Dalby & District Show Society. Not long after Annie recovered from the excitement of winning her local show title she was crowned Miss Darling Downs Showgirl and Miss Popularity at the Toowoomba Royal Show. Annie competed against 14 other Miss Showgirls from the region for the coveted title. To be voted Miss Personality by your peers is a wonderful achievement. I met Annie at the Dalby show and was impressed with her vibrant personality and welcoming nature. Her interest in her community was refreshing. Annie will serve as ambassador for the Darling Downs for the next five months before the state Miss Showgirl finals held in August in Brisbane at the Royal Queensland Show, an event I will be endeavouring to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Annie good luck in her quest for the Queensland Miss Showgirl title and encourage the Darling Downs community to support her in every way possible.