




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Mount Perry

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to inform the House of the importance of gold mining in the Mount Perry region in the Callide electorate. Home to 408 constituents, the tiny town of Mount Perry is punching well above its weight. The Mount Perry district was settled by shepherds in the 1840s. Copper was discovered in 1867 and the town grew to be an important mining centre, rapidly expanding to a population of 3,200. As with so many mining boom towns of the era this did not last, and the copper was mined out over a period of 50 years. Alluvial gold was first discovered in the hills near Mount Perry in 1946, leading to early mining endeavours; however, the gold grade was too low to be profitable in those times.

Evolution Mining now operates the Mount Rawdon mine 20 kilometres from Mount Perry. It has produced more than 1.5 million ounces of gold since it started production in 2001, which converts to 50 tonnes of gold bullion. The mine employs 250 people and operates from a single open pit using conventional drill-and-blast, load-and-haul methods. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At current estimates the operation is scheduled to continue until 2026. It is a significant contributor to the Mount Perry and Queensland economies.

The mine is expected to produce between \$90 million and \$103 million worth of gold in the 2018 financial year. In 2018, 56 ounces, or 1.65 kilograms, of gold found its way into the iconic Melbourne Cup trophy. The extracted rock is processed into dore bar at the mine and sent to ABC Bullion in Sydney, who are in charge of making the iconic Melbourne Cup.

After being manufactured in Sydney, the Melbourne Cup trophy sets off on a whirlwind tour in July. The itinerary includes 37 localities spread throughout the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Korea and Australia. The trophy went home to Mount Perry in September, visiting the children at the Mount Perry State School and attending a community function at picturesque Mount Perry racecourse on 15 September.

On the first Tuesday in November, when the race that stops a nation has been run and the festivities are done and dusted, those fortunate Melbourne Cup winners will forever be in possession of a precious piece of gold from the little Callide town of Mount Perry. I implore the Minister for Racing to make sure that some of the promised and yet-to-be-delivered \$70 million to rural and regional country racing finds its way to the Mount Perry Race Club.