



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Blackall, Sesquicentenary

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.13 pm): This year marks 150 years since the town of Blackall was founded. Last week I was delighted to join in at least part of the nine days of celebrations staged to mark this historic birthday. B150 included the renowned Shockwave youth festival, a Blackall Rugby League reunion—we won our first grand final in 30 years this year; well done to the Magpies—markets and special events for all ages, billycart races, a colour run and a visit by chef Matt Golinski. Many here would know Matt Golinski, a man of great strength. He came out and played a role in our famous celebrations.

Despite the drought and tough times, people were able to put aside their worries and commemorate the courage and vision of the early settlers who founded such a far-flung township so successfully. It was fantastic to see the town full of people. There were those with personal ties to Blackall coming to celebrate, locals turning out in force, tourists and visitors joining us.

I congratulate Mayor Andrew Martin, councillors from the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council and many community volunteers who worked so hard to make B150 an outstanding celebration. With my family originating from the Blackall-Tambo area, I am a strong advocate for this area—be it roads, wild dog fencing, drought assistance, education or health. It is a place of special meaning to me and a place of special meaning to many people across Queensland.

We saw our first ram sale in the district for 20 years. Stellar prices were achieved, with an average price of \$1,400 a ram and some rams hitting over the \$2,000 mark. That is an amazing achievement for a place that is in drought, but it goes to show that people are getting back into sheep. Let us get those cluster fences up and going. Let us get people back into sheep, because the country around Blackall, Tambo and all of that Mitchell grass country is aimed for wool growing and we have fantastic people out there to achieve that.

I was also able to attend the first cattle sale in the new saleyards. These new saleyards are unique to Queensland. They are both EU certified and organic certified. In fact, they are the only yards in Queensland that are, and there are only two organic certified yards in the world. One is in Blackall and the other is in Alice Springs.

Anyone who has visited Blackall knows how attractive and historic the Blackall township is and how gorgeous the landscapes are. The certified saleyards will ensure producers in Blackall and surrounding districts can target high-end markets globally and we will continue to do that. We need to maximise this opportunity. I am calling on the state government to improve the road infrastructure in Western Queensland starting with the sealing of—you guessed it—the Blackall Jericho Road. I will continue to bang on about that. We need to get that sealed. It is only another 30 kilometres. Well done to the Blackall community on a great celebration!