




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADJOURNMENT

FarmFest; Queen's Birthday Award

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.06 pm): Last week I attended the annual FarmFest field days, located west of Toowoomba near Kingsthorpe in the heart of the Darling Downs. This is an area known for its rich diversity of agricultural production, an extensive engineering industry and wideranging industrial activities. Each year these field days become larger, with more businesses exhibiting and demonstrating their latest innovations and more people attending to seek information, to purchase machinery, tools or livestock, or to just look at what our vibrant agricultural industry has to offer.

Over 60,000 people attended FarmFest this year and had the opportunity to meet with more than 2,500 individual companies and organisations which were displaying their latest inventions and sharing their knowledge. The LNP supports the agricultural sector and knows that our economy is heavily reliant upon what happens in the farming, grazing and horticultural sectors and those industries that provide the technology and innovations to improve the way we utilise our natural resources.

During FarmFest the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, the deputy leader, Tim Mander, and six shadow ministers—including the shadow minister for agricultural industry development and fisheries and forestry, Tony Perrett, and the shadow minister for state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning, Andrew Powell—visited FarmFest and met with many small and large businesses and listened to their issues. LNP members from the neighbouring electorates also attended and reinforced to the people of rural and regional Queensland that they have our full and ongoing support. I must say that the Labor members were conspicuous by their absence.

It was difficult not to notice the number of green shirts in the large crowd. They wore them proudly and were happy to talk about the reasons they will keep wearing them at every opportunity. The green shirts are symbolising more than just the grave concern landowners have over the vegetation management laws. They are becoming a movement in the bush, declaring that we will not be ignored or trampled over by this government. The people of rural and regional Queensland are an important cog in the wheels of our economy and the backbone of our society. Without them, our state will suffer long into the future.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the local winners of the Queen's Birthday awards. I congratulate the former councillor and mayor of Pittsworth, Ros Scotney, and also a longstanding friend of mine, Allan Petersen, from the Southbrook area. Both of them are very deserving recipients of those awards and I would like to congratulate them both.