




Speech By
Bruce Saunders

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Dollin, Mr R

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (7.19 pm): The day 5 November was not a good day for the Maryborough electorate. We lost one of our Labor legends, a tremendous man—Bobby Dollin. Bob was the Labor member for Maryborough from 1989 until 1998. Bob was a mentor of mine. When I decided to run for the state seat of Maryborough I spoke to Bob. Bob's knowledge of the timber industry was second to none. I am going to miss that knowledge. He was fantastic. He did good things as the member for Maryborough.

I know Bobby was a good member because I was at the markets just after he passed away and a bloke came up to me and said, 'I made two mistakes in my life.' I said, 'What were they?' He said, 'I got a tip for the Melbourne Cup and I did not back it and I did not vote for Bob. I was working at Downer and after Bob got thrown out of office'—in his words not mine—'we had 700 staff and we finished up with 122. I did not appreciate how good a member he was until after that happened.'

Bobby Dollin was tremendous for our community. One thing about Bob—one of our Labor legends—was that his handshake was his bond. Once someone shook Bob's hand the deal was done. They did not have to go back and second-guess it. They did not have to go back and read to make sure page 34 was correct. Bob always made sure that once he agreed to something he stuck to it.

I had many a conversation about timber with Bob. We know that Bob had sawmills throughout his life. At the funeral we were told how he had a very tough life as a young bloke. He started off cutting timber in New South Wales. He never told me he was born in New South Wales. Maybe he did not want me to know that he had to wear a blue jersey at a time.

We can tell the character of the man when those who worked for Bob were all there saying what a great boss he was. He paid the right wages and looked after them. Bob's family is fantastic. I have known them a long time. His wife, Verlie, is a fantastic lady. His son Stephen works at Downer in Maryborough building the trains. His other children are Stewie, Maree, Michelle and Katrina. They are a working family. They are good people. Bobby's legacy in Maryborough is second to none.

In my electorate office I have a photograph of former members Brendan Hansen and Bobby Dollin. I am going to miss him because I will not be able to pick up the phone anymore and say, 'Bob, what do you think about this in terms of the timber industry? Do you think they should go this way? What information do I need?' He educated me about timber. Bob was a living legend in the Wide Bay and the Maryborough electorate. I am going to miss you, mate. Condolences to the Dollin family.