




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Perrett, Mr TJ

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.51 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Trevor John Perrett, former member for Barambah. I extend my sincere sympathy to Trevor's family and to my parliamentary colleague the member for Gympie. Trevor Perrett was elected to the state parliament in April 1988 at a by-election triggered by the resignation of the sitting member and former Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Mr Perrett was backed by the Citizens Electoral Council, defeating the National Party's preferred candidate, the Kingaroy shire council chairman Warren Truss. Warren Truss went on to be elected as the National Party's member for Wide Bay and in 1990 at the federal election he served as deputy prime minister. Just months after his election, Mr Perrett left the CEC and joined the National Party.

Trevor Perrett served as coalition shadow minister for primary industries and forestry and coalition shadow minister for rural communities in the Borbidge-Sheldon coalition. During his role as shadow minister for primary industries and forestry, I worked closely with his office and with him as there was considerable policy integration with the lands and water portfolios. I distinctly recall the coalition primary industries policy document that Trevor Perrett developed and presented at that time. It was one of the most comprehensive primary industries policies that I have ever seen produced by an opposition. He was knowledgeable on all aspects of primary industries. If you asked him about poultry production or fruit fly, he was well across the issue and the topic.

As minister for primary industries, Trevor restored positions and staff to the department of primary industries and created career paths for research and extension officers. Under his stewardship, the department restored and filled over 426 positions for veterinarians, scientific research officers, stock inspectors and industry development officers in just nine months. I was good friends with Trevor Perrett's electorate officer Sue, who worked in the Barambah electorate office. I recall her telling me one day that she had to come back to work to correct a reference for a constituent and I asked her what was so serious that she had to come back over the weekend to fix a letter. She explained that in the reference it is customary to write the phrase 'I don't hesitate to recommend' this person to you. The problem was that in the word 'don't' the 'n't' was missing, so it read, 'I do hesitate to recommend' this person to you. She was mortified by her mistake and very thankful that Trevor was particularly diligent in all his correspondence and found the error before the reference made its way to the constituent.

Trevor's achievements in the primary industries policy and portfolio were welcomed by rural and regional Queensland at that time. His family are here today and can be proud of his achievements for this state. He was a great friend to agriculture and I want to acknowledge his contribution and extend my deepest condolences to his family and my colleague the member for Gympie.