



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Perrett, Mr TJ**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.45 am): I, too, rise to contribute to the condolence motion. Firstly, to my great friend and the member for Gympie, I offer my sincerest condolences to you, your wife, 'Chelsy', and to Trevor's wife, Mimi, on the passing of your father, Trevor.

Trevor Perrett was the member for Barambah from 1988 to 1998. He is one of just six people who have represented my region since 1912 including Robert Hodge, Jim Edwards, Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Dorothy Pratt and myself. Trevor Perrett was born in Kingaroy in 1941 and grew up on his family property, Mount Hope, at Booie near Kingaroy. Before entering politics he was a grazier, president of the Queensland Poll Hereford Association, councillor with the Cattlemen's Union, member of the rural fires and president of the mighty South Burnett National Show Society.

In his first speech in parliament he said—

A few months ago, I had no inclination to sit in this House. That all changed during a period of five weeks, and it is to the credit of the electors of my great electorate that I am here today, delivering my maiden speech. I thank them for their confidence in me. It is my intention to represent their will to the best of my ability and to place that will above all external pressures and considerations where possible.

He was passionate about rural industry and acted as the shadow minister for rural communities and the shadow minister for primary industries and forestry, a position that his son now holds. He was also opposition spokesperson for primary industries and served on several communities. When the coalition took government in 1996 he became the minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry, a spot we wish his son to hold as well. He served in this role for three years, although I think you could do it for longer than three years, Tony.

On 10 August 1996 the *Courier-Mail* reported on the fact that the DPI had defied national trends by increasing staff numbers. Trevor Perrett noted that was one of his first commitments as the former Labor government had retrenched 692 DPI research and extension staff over six years, with bleak prospects for rural science and agricultural graduates. The story explains that his goal was to reduce administration costs and increase the budget for DPI research, development and extension. He promised to create career paths for research and extension officers and wanted to encourage new graduates to join the department as entomologists, agronomists, veterinary officers, plant health officers, stock inspectors, biologists, project developers and field officers to work in the fields of environmental management, crop nutrition, quarantine entry, pest management and in the pig, poultry, wool, banana, oats, cotton, eel and deer industries. He also wanted to build closer relationships with producers, key industry groups, funding bodies and colleagues in sister organisations such as CSIRO and universities.

The major refocusing of the DPI during Trevor Perrett's time was outlined in a document called *Bringing it together* to describe how the DPI would ensure maximum resources were directed into research and extension programs, particularly in the field. In Mr Perrett's last speech to the House, a matter of public interest, he spoke about the development of the Queensland wine industry. In particular, he mentioned that it was—

... dear to my heart because it is happening, to a large degree, in my electorate of Barambah.

...

Already there are 22 vineyards and three wineries in Barambah, and more are planned—some of them on a scale unprecedented in this State. These are fine examples of visionary local effort.

...

This Government has established the Queensland wine development project with the aim of doubling the State's wine industry turnover to \$34m a year. Its main purpose is to encourage the consumption of Queensland wines. The department recently selected the Queensland Dozen to stimulate the demand for our wines in bottle shops and restaurants around Australia. Two Barambah Ridge wines and one from Rimfire were included in the selection.

He went on to say—

I would respectfully suggest, Mr Speaker, that those awards qualify the Barambah Ridge wines—and those from Rimfire vineyard—for consideration on the parliamentary dining room wine list.

It is wonderful to know that the parliament still promotes and serves Queensland wines as well as the mighty South Burnett wines and it is great to know that South Burnett is represented following this vision with Clovelly Estate being offered here in the Queensland parliament, as it is in Government House, I believe. Trevor Perrett passed away on 10 July this year aged 80 years. Again, on behalf of the constituents of the Nanango electorate, I acknowledge Trevor Perrett's service and contribution to Queensland and again pass on my deepest condolences to the family. Vale, Trevor Perrett.