



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Gregory Electorate

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.24 pm): I congratulate the member for Mansfield on her adjournment speech and absolutely agree with her. I want to take the opportunity of congratulating all of the citizens of Gregory who won Australia Day awards on Australia Day this year. Many of the 10 local government areas in Gregory were unable to hold ceremonies in person this year. That was disappointing but in no way detracts from the honours done. These awards are citizen nominated and selected, so all of the nominees should feel honoured. It reflects the high esteem they enjoy in their communities. With such a big electorate, there are too many worthy winners and nominees to list, but I do offer my sincere appreciation for everything they do. Volunteers are the backbone of life in Gregory and they also make our home towns so special.

On a similar but sadder theme, I want to pay tribute to some pioneers on the Central Highlands who have passed away over the parliamentary break. In November we lost Mr Barry Brown of Emerald. His loss is deeply felt by Eva, Karen and Matthew as well as the wider Emerald community. Barry and Eva ran an extremely successful business called Gem Ford Motors in Emerald and were generous sponsors of many local causes. Barry was also a valued member of Lions, Rotary and the RSL. In 1993 Barry became a director of the Emerald Co-Operative Society Ltd and in 2003 became chairman. Under Barry's leadership, the co-op established an extensive community giving program to help important non-for-profit groups on the Central Highlands. Over about 18 years Barry's board has given away over \$632,000. The co-op is owned by the people of Emerald—and I declare that I also am a shareholder, like thousands and thousands of people on the Central Highlands; it is not worth that much money—which Barry Brown is loved for, and he was never afraid to reinvest in it. As a new director, Barry helped oversee the building of the new premises of the co-op and during his time signed off on a million dollar garden centre, solar panels, air conditioning and store upgrades worth 2½ times the cost of the new building.

Our Emerald community is also grieving the loss of Mr David Buust. David is a well-known figure in Emerald and is fondly remembered for his generous help to many local groups in times of need. Another person who passed away was John Braitling—a very good family friend and well recognised in the Brahman breeding and CQ horse racing industries. Bob Andersen also recently passed. Bob was a pioneer in the cotton industry and a person very much involved in the bowls club. Last but not least I want to mark the passing this week of Mr John Maguire, aged 86. In many ways the Maguire family is the absolute essence of the Emerald community. John and his wife, Fay, were staunch members of St Patrick's Parish and deeply involved in the community. John was the father of Tim, Peter—many members would know Peter, better known as Maggot Maguire, the former mayor of the Emerald and Central Highlands shire councils—Michael and Donna. Just quietly, John will be deeply missed by his large family and the wider Emerald community.