



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**


**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

**Perrett, Mr TJ**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.54 am): Trevor Perrett was elected to state parliament in April 1988. He represented the then seat of Barambah for 10 years, but my dealings with the former member for Barambah were when he was the Queensland minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry and I was a young ABC Rural reporter for the *Queensland Country Hour*. I found Trevor Perrett to be a thoroughly decent man to deal with and his knowledge of agriculture, fisheries and forestry was comprehensive. He was a man who played his politics with a straight bat. He was determined to achieve outcomes for the industry and leave petty politics out of the decision-making. I guess his practical nature to advocacy came from his background as a grazier and local councillor. Grassroots advocacy was his speciality.

Back then, our agricultural landscape was much different but also similar to today. It was different in the fact that the minister—Trevor—had to deal with vast agricultural advocacy groups. In 1996 we still had the United Graziers' Association, the Cattleman's Union and Queensland Graingrowers which merged in 1998 to become AgForce. The wool industry was still coming to terms with the scrapping of the floor price. Back then, woolgrowers were getting 400c a kilogram clean for wool which was well below production costs. The sugar industry was still very regulated with no ability to price forward and a quota system still in place for the production, the timber industry was going through massive changes, the cotton industry was under the spotlight with chemical contamination issues and beef sent to Korea started the journey down to best management practices. Similar to today for the minister—Trevor—back then there was the constant presence of drought. As minister, he dealt with those issues professionally and was able to navigate outcomes that made a difference.

As a young rural reporter, he was always available to talk and offer an explanation that made sense. I will add that I had the same respect for the Premier's father, Henry Palaszczuk, when he took over and was appointed to the position when Labor won office in 1998. Both men were true gentlemen and real advocates for agriculture. Back then we did not have Twitter or 24-hour news, so the minister really relied on the *Queensland Country Hour* to get the message out and engaged with the *Queensland Country Hour*, which already had 50 years under its belt, was widely respected by its audience and was a great opportunity for Trevor to get his message out. Also in those days Trevor had a great working relationship with giants of the agricultural industry. I am talking about Bill Bonthron and Larry Acton from the United Graziers' Association, Ian Macfarlane from Queensland Graingrowers and the great John Purcell and Kerry Martin from the Cattleman's Union. To Tony and your whole family, I pass on my condolences. Your father played a significant role in agriculture and to this parliament and he would be proud of you today.