



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Furner**


**MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Perrett, Mr TJ**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.42 am): I rise to speak on the motion of condolence for Trevor Perrett, who served in this chamber as the member for Barambah for a decade, and also served as a minister in the Borbidge government from 1996 to 1998. At the outset, I would like to pass on my condolences and the best wishes of all members on this side of the chamber to the member for Gympie at such a difficult time.

Mr Perrett left school at 14 and yet rose to carry the particular distinction of following former premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen in holding the seat of Barambah and, as I indicated, he went on to serve as a minister in the National Party government. Before entering parliament he had close ties to the agricultural sector, including as president of his local show society, and for six years he was president of the Queensland Poll Hereford Association.

On the back of a campaign that lasted all of five weeks, as Mr Perrett told, he was elected in a by-election and retained the seat until One Nation reached its brief peak at the 1998 election. At that first election he defeated National Party candidate Warren Truss, who of course later entered the federal parliament and rose to the rank of deputy prime minister. Mr Perrett acknowledged to media that his campaign had consisted of 'a bunch of guys with no money and no experience', but it was nonetheless successful. In his own words at the time, he considered himself 'fairly moderate' and rejected suggestions that he was an extreme right-winger.

On Indigenous land rights, he wanted to see Indigenous Queenslanders given the power to utilise their natural resources. He believed 'there is a need for unions to look after the interests of workers' as long as they were not 'allowed to get out of control'. In his maiden speech he spoke passionately in support of a Swiss style model of citizen initiated referenda, arguing that such a system would make all political parties more responsive to the people and, indeed, that between parties 'there would quickly be a loosening between them of wasteful, bitter and costly debate'.

He held the shadow portfolios of primary industries, forestry and rural communities from 1991 and in 1996 he was appointed to serve as minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry in the Borbidge government from 1996 to 1998. During his time as minister he oversaw the process of replacing the Queensland Abattoir Corporation with private operators, moving the government away from the meat-processing business.

In 1997 he supported the establishment of the Queensland Centre for Climate Applications to help agricultural industries manage climate impacts. In early 1998 he opened a \$5 million fruit fly research laboratory in Cairns with research focused on protecting and enhancing market access for Australian fruit and vegetables. He announced a \$5 million buyout offer for commercial inshore net fisheries in the gulf region and along the east coast, and also for licences in the east coast beam trawl

fisheries and ocean beach fisheries of South-East Queensland. He came gunning for black marketers who threatened scallop fisheries and said they could not only risk their licences but also their boats if they continued their illegal activities. I guess some things remain the same.

Again, I offer my condolences to the member for Gympie on his family's loss.