

**GIDGEGANNUP SMALL FARM FIELD DAY**

*Statement by Member for Swan Hills*

**MR F.A. ALBAN (Swan Hills)** [12.51 pm]: On Sunday, 25 May I had the great pleasure of officially opening the annual *Countryman* Gidgegannup Small Farm Field Day, which is supported by the state and the Department of Agriculture and Food. This event, which is now in its seventh year, is an industry-focused event, with farmers displaying their stock and producers showcasing their vast range of products from not only the local area, but also interstate. For those who are unaware of the event, the field day is almost like a smaller version of the Perth Royal Show, without rides and show bags, yet plenty remains to see and do. In a state that the mining sector has certainly positioned itself at the forefront of, agriculture has often found itself minimised, yet it contributes significantly to the economy. With events such as this, agricultural industries are able to not only promote their work and methodology, but also sustain ties throughout the sector. The great character and commitment of the Aussie farmer is often spoken about, but the sense of community and, indeed, mateship that comes from these events is significant and should be acknowledged. Another significant event that will be returning to Gidgegannup in October is the agricultural show and, yes, there will be rides. I would like to thank the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the department for their continued support that events such as these around the state receive.