

**NATIONAL HISTORIC MACHINERY ASSOCIATION RALLY — FAIRBRIDGE VILLAGE**

*Statement by Member for Southern River*

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River)** [12.55 pm]: I take this opportunity to commend the Machinery Preservation Club of Western Australia for hosting the Thirteenth National Historic Machinery Association Rally held at Fairbridge Village near Pinjarra on 2 to 4 September 2011. This event, supported by Eventscorp, royalties for regions and the Peel Development Corporation, drew over 13 000 daytrippers, plus over 1 000 exhibitors, half of whom travelled from the eastern states. One exhibitor came from the United States and even shipped his tractor across for the event. Fairbridge Village was filled to capacity, with 400 people, and another 640 stayed in a specially-constructed temporary powered caravan park on site. In addition, the tourist accommodation for miles around was fully booked, and that proved a boon to the local economy. Overseas visitors came from Cornwall and elsewhere in England, Wales, Ireland and New Zealand. A number of semi-trailers laden with vintage machinery were driven across the Nullarbor for this event. But the most outstanding effort was from two exhibitors who drove their tractors across Australia to attend, with one couple driving their tractor from Ballarat, via Darwin, to Fairbridge Village, leaving in May and arriving at the end of August! I want to commend the organisers: Wayne Edmunds, chairman; Bob Wallis, secretary; Elwyn Harries, treasurer; Les Jones, registrar; Keith Chappell, IT technician; Bob Lukins, tractors; Lil Combes, ladies' interests; and Wendy and Ralph Thomas, publicity and webmasters. I also want to thank the staff at Fairbridge Village, whose cooperative spirit in the lead-up to, and during, the rally was without doubt a key factor to the success of the weekend.