



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 24 March 2015

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Legislative Assembly


FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF MARCH, IN THE SIXTY-FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2015.

TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2015

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

 Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 12 March 2015, appointing parliament to meet this day for the dispatch of business, the House met at 10 am in the Legislative Assembly chamber.

The Clerk read the following proclamation—

Constitution of Queensland 2001

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God,

Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under sections 15(1) and 18 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001, in the name of Her Majesty summon the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to a session to commence at 10.00 am on 24 March 2015 at Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 12 March 2015.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 50, page 54, on 12 March 2015.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Proclamation, dated 12 March 2015, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session on 24 March 2015 [\[22\]](#).

COMMISSION TO OPEN PARLIAMENT

 The Clerk informed the House that His Excellency the Governor, not being able conveniently to be present in person this day, has issued a commission under the public seal of the state, authorising the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Curtis Warren Pitt to cause the opening and holding of this session of parliament.

The Clerk read the following commission—

Queensland

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God,

Queen of Australia and Her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

To the Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK and the Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD and the Honourable CURTIS WARREN PITT.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, authorise you, or any of you—

- (a) in my name and on my behalf to open the session of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland to commence on 24 March 2015; and
- (b) to do in my name and on my behalf anything required to be done in the name of Her Majesty or of the Governor in relation to the opening and holding of the session.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 12 March 2015.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 50, page 55, on 12 March 2015.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 12 March 2015, to open the session of the Legislative Assembly on 24 March 2015 [\[23\]](#).

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

 **The SENIOR COMMISSIONER** (Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk—Inala): I produce a commission under the public seal of the state authorising myself, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Curtis Warren Pitt, or any one of us, to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office that is required by law to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly. I ask the Clerk to read the commission.

The Clerk read the following commission—

Queensland

Constitution of Queensland 2001

To the Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK and the Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD and the Honourable CURTIS WARREN PITT.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under section 22 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, authorise you, or any of you, to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office that is required to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 12 March 2015.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 50, page 56, on 12 March 2015.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 12 March 2015, to administer the oaths or affirmations [\[24\]](#).


RETURN OF WRIT

 The Clerk informed the House that the writ for the various electoral districts had been returned to him, and was endorsed as follows—

Albert—Mark Boothman	Logan—Linus Power
Algester—Leeanne Enoch	Lytton—Joan Pease
Ashgrove—Kate Jennifer Jones	Mackay—Julieanne Gilbert
Aspley—Tracy Davis	Mansfield—Ian Walker
Barron River—Craig Crawford	Maroochydore—Fiona Simpson
Beaudesert—Jon Krause	Maryborough—Bruce Saunders
Brisbane Central—Grace Grace	Mermaid Beach—Ray Stevens
Broadwater—Verity Barton	Mirani—Jimmy Pearce
Buderim—Steve Dickson	Moggill—Christian Andrew Carr Rowan
Bulimba—Di Farmer	Morayfield—Mark Thomas Ryan
Bundaberg—Leanne Donaldson	Mount Coot-tha—Steven Miles
Bundamba—Jo-Ann Roslyn Miller	Mount Isa—Rob Katter
Burdekin—Dale Last	Mount Ommaney—Tarnya Smith
Burleigh—Michael Hart	Mudgeeraba—Ros Bates
Burnett—Stephen Bennett	Mulgrave—Curtis Pitt
Cairns—Rob Pyne	Mundingburra—Coralee O'Rourke
Callide—Jeffrey William Seeney	Murrumba—Christopher Guy Whiting
Caloundra—Mark McArdle	Nanango—Deborah Kay Frecklington
Capalaba—Don Brown	Nicklin—Peter William Wellington
Chatsworth—Steve Minnikin	Noosa—Glen Wayne Elmes
Clayfield—Timothy James Nicholls	Nudgee—Leanne Linard
Cleveland—Mark Andrew Robinson	Pine Rivers—Nikki Boyd
Condamine—Patrick Thomas Weir	Pumicestone—Rick Williams
Cook—Billy Gordon	Redcliffe—Yvette D'Ath
Coomera—Michael Crandon	Redlands—Matthew John McEachan
Currumbin—Jann Stuckey	Rockhampton—William Byrne
Dalrymple—Shane Knuth	Sandgate—Stirling Hinchliffe
Everton—Timothy Leonard Mander	South Brisbane—Jackie Trad
Ferny Grove—Mark Furner	Southern Downs—Lawrence Springborg
Gaven—Sid Cramp	Southport—Rob Molhoek
Gladstone—Glenn James Butcher	Springwood—Mick de Brenni
Glass House—Andrew Powell	Stafford—Anthony Lynham
Greenslopes—Joseph Kelly	Stretton—Duncan Pegg
Gregory—Lachlan Millar	Sunnybank—Peter Russo
Gympie—Tony Perrett	Surfers Paradise—John-Paul Langbroek
Hervey Bay—Ted Sorensen	Thuringowa—Aaron Harper
Hinchinbrook—Andrew Cripps	Toowoomba North—Trevor Watts
Inala—Annastacia Palaszczuk	Toowoomba South—John McVeigh
Indooroopilly—Scott Anthony Emerson	Townsville—Scott James Stewart
Ipswich—Jennifer Howard	Warrego—Ann Leahy
Ipswich West—Jim Madden	Waterford—Shannon Fentiman
Kallangur—Shane King	Whitsunday—Jason Costigan
Kawana—Jarrod Bleijie	Woodridge—Cameron Dick
Keppel—Brittany Lauga	Yeerongpilly—Mark Bailey
Lockyer—Ian Philip Rickuss	

Tabled paper: Writ for the general election held on 31 January 2015 [\[25\]](#).


MEMBERS SWORN

 The commissioners, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Hon. Jacklyn Anne Trad and the Hon. Curtis Warren Pitt, administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to themselves and, having been sworn, subscribed the Roll of Members.


The commissioners administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to the following members, who then subscribed the Roll of Members—

PALASZCZUK, Anastacia	KING, Shane
TRAD, Jackie	KNUTH, Shane
PITT, Curtis	KRAUSE, Jon
DICK, Cameron	LANGBROEK, John-Paul
JONES, Kate Jennifer	LAST, Dale
LYNHAM, Anthony	LAUGA, Brittany
D'ATH, Yvette	LEAHY, Ann
MILLER, Jo-Ann Roslyn	LINARD, Leanne
BYRNE, William	MADDEN, Jim
BAILEY, Mark	MANDER, Timothy Leonard
MILES, Steven	MCARDLE, Mark
ENOCH, Leeanne	MCEACHAN, Matthew John
FENTIMAN, Shannon	MCVEIGH, John
O'ROURKE, Coralee	MILLAR, Lachlan
BARTON, Verity	MINNIKIN, Steve
BATES, Ros	MOLHOEK, Rob
BENNETT, Stephen	NICHOLLS, Timothy James
BLEIJIE, Jarrod	PEARCE, Jim
BOOTHMAN, Mark	PEASE, Joan Ellen
BOYD, Nikki	PEGG, Duncan
BROWN, Don	PERRETT, Tony
BUTCHER, Glenn James	POWELL, Andrew
COSTIGAN, Jason	POWER, Linus
CRAMP, Sid	PYNE, Rob
CRANDON, Michael	RICKUSS, Ian Philip
CRAWFORD, Craig	ROBINSON, Mark Andrew
CRIPPS, Andrew	ROWAN, Christian Andrew Carr
DAVIS, Tracy	RUSSO, Peter
BRENNI de, Mick	RYAN, Mark Thomas
DICKSON, Steve	SAUNDERS, Bruce
DONALDSON, Leanne	SEENEY, Jeffrey William
ELMES, Glen Wayne	SIMPSON, Fiona
EMERSON, Scott Anthony	SMITH, Tarnya
FARMER, Di	SORENSEN, Ted
FRECKLINGTON, Deborah Kay	SPRINGBORG, Lawrence
FURNER, Mark	STEVENS, Ray
GILBERT, Julieanne	STEWART, Scott James
GORDON, Billy	STUCKEY, Jann
GRACE, Grace	WALKER, Ian
HARPER, Aaron	WATTS, Trevor
HART, Michael	WEIR, Patrick Thomas
HINCHLIFFE, Stirling	WELLINGTON, Peter William
HOWARD, Jennifer	WHITING, Christopher Guy
KATTER, Rob	WILLIAMS, Rick
KELLY, Joseph	

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **The CLERK:** Honourable members, pursuant to the requirements of section 14 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, members must immediately elect a member to be the Speaker before proceeding to any other business. Standing order 39 provides that the Clerk shall call upon the member present in the House who has served in the House continually for the longest period and who is not a minister to take the chair for the purpose of the election of a Speaker. This member is known as the Presiding Member in the Legislative Assembly's standing orders for the purposes of the election of the Speaker.


The longest continually serving member of the Legislative Assembly is Mr Lawrence Springborg, the member for Southern Downs, who was elected on 2 December 1989 and sworn in as a member of the 46th Parliament on 27 February 1990. In accordance with standing order 39, I call on the member for Southern Downs to take the chair as the Presiding Member for the purposes of the election of a Speaker.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER (Mr Springborg):** Honourable members, before calling for proposals for Speaker, I draw the attention of honourable members to the standing orders, which will provide that any member present in the chamber may be nominated as Speaker. The proposer of a nomination must move that the member take the chair of the House as Speaker. All nominations are to be seconded. Members who have been nominated are required to indicate if they accept the nomination. After all nominations have been made, seconded and accepted, debate will then ensue.


Debate on the nominations shall be relevant to the question. In accordance with past practice, debate will occur regardless of the number of nominations received and a time limit of five minutes will apply to all speeches. I remind honourable members that the provisions of the standing orders apply to the debate. I also remind honourable members that whilst in the chair the Presiding Member has all the powers and authorities of the Speaker. That is a bit unique for an opposition leader, Madam Premier!

Honourable members: Ha, ha!

The PRESIDING MEMBER: One minute's glory! I now call for nominations.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.53 am):** Mr Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington. I move—


That the honourable member for Nicklin take the chair of the House as Speaker.

 **Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.54 am):** Mr Presiding Member, I second the nomination and the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for the Arts.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Does the honourable member for Nicklin accept the nomination?

Mr WELLINGTON: I accept the nomination.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: There being no further nominations, I call the Premier and Minister for the Arts.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.54 am):** Thank you very much, Mr Presiding Member. It is my privilege and honour to nominate the member for Nicklin for the position of Speaker of the 55th Parliament of Queensland. This nomination gives honourable members the opportunity to support an Independent member to be Speaker of this House for this term.

The member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, is known to be a true Independent. The facts speak for themselves. Since his election to the House in 1998, the member for Nicklin has voted with both government and opposition parties on a wide range of legislation and issues. In his maiden speech in 1998 he gave an undertaking to the people of Queensland. He committed to considering every piece of legislation carefully. He committed to taking appropriate advice before making any decisions that would impact on the lives and future prosperity of Queenslanders. On any objective measure, he has remained true to those commitments. The voters of Nicklin believe he has been true to his word because they have re-elected him six times. He has advised me that, if elected to the position of Speaker, he will remain true to those undertakings.

The member for Nicklin has always been a grassroots politician who believes in genuine community consultation. As a Maroochy shire councillor he used to hand-deliver his own newsletters. I have known him since 1998 and I know he is always willing to listen. He will stand up for people in need or people who have been wronged—and not just people in his electorate but Queenslanders as a whole.


That is why he has always been passionate about the community cabinet process. It was Peter Wellington who pushed for community cabinet meetings to be opened up to all members of the public and for the Premier to be questioned from the floor by members of the community. We will be returning to that process in our program of community cabinets. We will put the community back into community cabinets to restore them as a key part of our state's democratic process.

The member for Nicklin has a well-earned reputation for impartiality and integrity. He has the utmost respect for the tried and true traditions of our parliamentary system. He believes fundamentally in openness and accountability. He has already said he will reintroduce TV news cameras onto the floor of the House because Queenslanders have a right to see how their elected officials are doing their jobs.

This new parliament and this new government are an opportunity for a new beginning in Queensland. It is my hope that the election of the member for Nicklin as an Independent Speaker will start a new era in this House. This House has not seen an Independent Speaker for a century. I am told that the last Speaker without traditional party affiliations was member for Lockyer William Armstrong, who held the office from 1911 to 1915. So today, a century later, we can make history. We can elect a true Independent to be Speaker of the people's house. We can help strengthen the stature of this House in the eyes of Queenslanders.

In his maiden speech in 1998 Peter Wellington identified a need to raise standards of behaviour here and to raise the level of respect of all of us in the eyes of Queenslanders. There is one thing I am certain about: the member for Nicklin is the right choice to ensure decorum and genuine respect in this place. All members here know that school groups, including those from our own electorates, regularly visit this House. As they sit in the public gallery and watch us at work, let them be impressed by the respect we have for each other and for the people we are here to represent.

Robust debate is essential. Passionate advocacy is vital. Regaining the respect of the public starts with being respectful of each other and more respectful of this institution. The member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, is the right person to make that happen. I urge all members to support his nomination.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.58 am): It is with a great sense of honour and privilege that I rise in this place today on two counts: firstly, to second the motion moved by the new Labor Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk; and, secondly, to support the nomination of the Independent member for Nicklin, Mr Peter Wellington, to preside over the 55th Parliament of Queensland.

Like the Premier, I have known Peter Wellington for some 17 years—that is, from the time he was first elected as the Independent member for Nicklin. When he first took his place in this House—as is the case now—the numbers in the parliament were tight. The member for Nicklin promised to deliver security and stability to the people of Queensland by supporting the Beattie Labor government on matters of confidence and supply.

As a young ministerial staffer during that period, I came to know the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, who always put his community first, who was deliberative and decent on every matter during that term, as he has been in every term subsequent. However, it was really in the last parliament, the 54th Parliament, that I came to really know the member for Nicklin while serving on the Ethics Committee and the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, formerly the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. It was during this time, when there were quite heavy matters, both ethical matters and other matters, before the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, that I really came to understand the independence, the fierce sense of integrity and also the fierce adherence to fair play that the member for Nicklin abides by.


Of all the things that could be said about the member for Nicklin let me say these three things in support of his nomination: firstly, the member for Nicklin has the courage to speak up for his convictions, and sometimes forcefully at that; secondly, the member for Nicklin holds this parliament

and the work that we all do as parliamentarians in the highest regard; and, thirdly, the member for Nicklin has an unwavering sense of integrity and fair play which I have seen on display in this place and outside of this place time and time again.

As the Premier has said, this is truly an historic occasion. This will be the first time in over 100 years that a truly Independent member has presided over the parliament. This will give Queenslanders a great sense of confidence and comfort that order will be restored in this place, that dignity will be restored in this place and that decency will be restored in this place.


We need to set high standards in regard to the behaviour that Queenslanders expect from their politicians. We need a House, a parliament, that Queenslanders can be proud of. It is this imperative that each and every one of us understands, and it is a privilege to represent our community in this place. Equally, it is important that we understand the importance of the role of the Speaker of the parliament, particularly in this parliamentary term.

This is the people's house, and I applaud Mr Wellington's announcement that he will bring the cameras back into parliament. This shows that he is serious about transparency and openness and, in turn, accountability. It shows his willingness to move with the times and not to shut down debate on issues that are important to Queenslanders. Premier Palaszczuk promised Queenslanders that we would govern for all Queenslanders. I believe that, for this parliament to move with the times, to work effectively and to be a place of real debate, the member for Nicklin is the only choice as Speaker.


 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): On behalf of the opposition I rise to support the nomination of the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, for the role of Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. With the House poised on a knife edge, it makes sense for this opposition to support an Independent MP for this role rather than surrender one of our own which could offer this minority government a possible majority on the floor.

I note the comments of the Premier and the Deputy Premier in their speeches of nomination, but I think there is an important point to note. The member for Callide has often said that the parliament is a place where governments come to be tested and tested by us, the opposition. The Speaker has the vital role of ensuring that that purpose can be served to its fullest extent. It is a house of debate; it is not a lecture theatre. I also note that the member for Nicklin's immediate predecessor, Neil Turner, served in the chair with distinction, and I trust that he will seek to emulate him.

There has also been significant discussion about the precedents regarding the appointment of an Independent MP to this role. I note the honourable Premier referred to the Speaker in the government of Digby Denham. I have been pleased to receive the research brief from the Parliamentary Library that tells me that, prior to the party system that we currently have—prior to the turn of the 20th century—there were a number of Speakers who did not have clear party affiliation: Gilbert Elliott, Arthur Macalister, Fredrick Forbes, William Walsh, Albert Norton and Henry Edward King.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER:** Honourable members, as there are no further nominations, I declare the honourable member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, to be the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland and congratulate him on his election.

Mr Wellington submitted himself to the pleasure of the House and, on being called, was conducted to the chair by the mover and the seconder.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I thank the House for the honour it has conferred on me by electing me as Speaker of the 55th Parliament. Honourable members, I am honoured to be elected as your Speaker for this the 55th Parliament. I sincerely thank the Premier and Deputy Premier for nominating me and for their kind words.

Fairness, equality and justice for all have been the cornerstone of my life as a police officer, a solicitor and a politician, and this is reflected in the proposed new standing orders which will guide the operation of our parliament. There will be greater opportunities for non-government members to present their issues, and I thank the government and the opposition for working together and finding common ground. I hope this will continue.

With the numbers in the House so close, I anticipate that we will see real debate and exchange of ideas leading to the best legislation possible for Queensland. While I acknowledge robust debate is part of the normal operation of our parliament, it is my intention to make sure that when motions are moved for debate there is genuine debate on the substance of the motion and that, likewise, when questions are asked and answers are given they are relevant.

In the public gallery I am joined by my wife, Jenny, my parents and family members. I acknowledge that without the help and support of my wife, who is my researcher, campaign manager, wordsmith and best mate, my political career would not exist.


Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: Hear, hear! Thank you. As I have said before, I owe no favours to vested interests, lobby groups or parties. In this context, I acknowledge the significance of my election to this office as only the second Independent Speaker in Queensland's history. However, I want to reassure Queenslanders that my election as Speaker will not prevent me from continuing to be a strong voice and advocate for the people I represent and for matters dear to my heart.


The exchange of letters between the Premier and me clearly sets out that I will support her government on all confidence motions unless there is evidence of corruption, illegal activities or like matters. And, in relation to proposed changes to laws, I will vote as I choose, irrespective of whether the proposal is from the government, the opposition or the crossbench. But I want to make it very clear that if I vote against the government on numerous occasions it cannot be seen as a trigger for a vote of no confidence in the government.

I welcome the media back to the chamber. The new media access rules have been arrived at after reference to other parliaments. I acknowledge the work of my predecessor, the member for Maroochydore, and previous Speakers who have worked hard and tirelessly at strengthening the function and capacity of our parliament.

Welcome to returning members and a special welcome to our new members. While I have no doubt there are experienced people in your parties to guide you, the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, is always available and my door will always be open to you. Thank you sincerely for the great honour and privilege you have conferred on me today.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.09 am): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the government I pass on my sincere congratulations to you on your election to the high office of Speaker of this parliament. As I said earlier, I have known you since 1998, and I know that you are a man of integrity and a man who stands up for your convictions. I acknowledge that we will have robust debates in this House, but I also acknowledge that this is the people's house where we will have an exchange of ideas but we will need a higher standard of decorum on the floor of this House.

On behalf of the government, I congratulate you, your family, your wife, Jenny, and your friends who are here today to celebrate this historic occasion of your election as the Independent Speaker of the Queensland parliament. I wish you all the very best in your dealings with both the government and the opposition. I know that you will deliberate on a fair basis at every opportunity. I also acknowledge that you are welcoming the media back onto the floor of the House, which no doubt they will also be very pleased about. Once again, congratulations. We wish you all the very best for this term of government.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.10 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on behalf of the LNP opposition to congratulate you on your ascendancy to the high office of Speaker within the Queensland parliament. Mr Speaker, you have been given what is an unusual but not unique privilege, and that is for someone outside of the major parties to be elected Speaker of the Queensland parliament. Of course that brings with it a whole range of responsibilities and opportunities which are somewhat unusual in many ways with regard to the operation of the Queensland parliament.

In the time that I have been in this place I have seen many Speakers who have distinguished themselves with not only a great understanding of the standing and sessional orders of this parliament but also an extraordinary respect for its values and its heritage, which date back to the earliest days of Westminster. I refer to people such as Jim Fouras, who was always very committed and dedicated to that role; Neil Turner, from Nicklin, who distinguished himself extraordinarily; a former honourable member for Logan, John Mickel, who was an outstanding Speaker; and Fiona Simpson, your predecessor, the member for Maroochydore. Notwithstanding the dynamics of this place, they always conducted themselves with fairness, diligence and a great degree of application in ensuring decorum within this parliament.


We know that many things will be said, and have been said, about the operation of this parliament and previous parliaments. One thing that is always offered by an election is an opportunity for revisionism by a whole range of people who seek to portray and contrast things not necessarily as they were. The best way to determine how a parliament has operated is to look at the official record of this place, whether it be the *Votes and Proceedings* or *Hansard*.

Mr Speaker, your election comes with the best wishes of the LNP opposition. We will ensure that we will be cooperative and constructive in our approach. But, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said earlier in supporting your nomination, we also have a role to ensure that we test the government on the floor of the parliament. In testing the government, it is also important that we are prepared to acknowledge those things that have broad support and that we can support. It is probably unknown to many people within the community that as many as eight out of 10 propositions that are brought to this parliament—propositions like legislation and sometimes extraordinary motions—pass with the bipartisan support of this place. We intend to be constructive and forthright in ensuring accountability from the government but we offer you our cooperation as well.

Mr Speaker, we commend the discussions that we had prior to your ascendancy to this very high position of Speaker where we spoke about a clear and consistent return of opportunities for the opposition and frontbenchers to have a greater degree of participation here—a return to those times between 1996 and 1998 with the Borbidge-Sheldon government and also the Beattie government where there was a range of opportunities for very important non-government members' motions and private members' bills, and an opportunity to have a greater contribution from non-government members prior to question time. We thank you for that and we very much look forward to ensuring that those undertakings that you gave in such a consistent way are able to be upheld and applied properly and consistently during this parliament.


Again, Mr Speaker, I congratulate you. We look forward to what is a rather unusual opportunity that can now operate in this parliament. I do believe there is a great chance now for good proposals from not only the government but also the non-government members to meet with the support of this chamber and meet with the approval of the people of Queensland. Congratulations.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.15 am): I desire to inform honourable members that His Excellency the Governor will receive the House for the purpose of presenting the Speaker to His Excellency at Government House today at 2.30 pm. All members are invited to be present. Transport has been arranged and will leave the Parliamentary Annexe at 1.50 pm. Honourable members should be at the Parliamentary Annexe main entrance no later than 1.45 pm.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Official Photograph

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the official photograph of members in the chamber will be taken today. I ask all members to remain in their seats after the House has been adjourned.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.15 am): I move—
That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 2.10 pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2015 in the former Legislative Council chamber.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.16 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.16 am.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams