



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 24 November 2020

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Legislative Assembly


FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Appointed to meet

AT BRISBANE ON THE TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE SIXTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2020.

TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2020

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

 Pursuant to the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor, dated 18 November 2020, 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 November 2020 at Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 18 November 2020.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 52, page 36, on 18 November 2020.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Proclamation, dated 18 November 2020, summoning the Legislative Assembly to a session on 24 November 2020 [\[41\]](#).

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. Steven John Miles and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick 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 STEVEN JOHN MILES and the Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK.

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 November 2020; 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 18 November 2020.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 52, page 37, on 18 November 2020.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 18 November 2020, to open the session of the Legislative Assembly on 24 November 2020 [\[42\]](#).

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 me, the Hon. Steven John Miles and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick, 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 STEVEN JOHN MILES and the Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK.

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 18 November 2020.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 52, page 38, on 18 November 2020.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 18 November 2020, to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office [\[43\]](#).


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—

Algerster—Leeanne Margaret Enoch	Mackay—Julieanne Claire Gilbert
Aspley—Bart John Mellish	Maiwar—Michael Craig Berkman
Bancroft—Christopher Guy Whiting	Mansfield—Corrine Patricia McMillan
Barron River—Craig Daryl Crawford	Maroochydore—Fiona Stuart Simpson
Bonney—Samuel Thomas O'Connor	Maryborough—Bruce Mark Saunders
Broadwater—David Frank Crisafulli	Mermaid Beach—Raymond Alexander Stevens
Buderim—Brent Andrew Mickelberg	Miller—Mark Craig Bailey
Bulimba—Dianne Elizabeth Farmer	Mirani—Stephen Seymour James Andrew
Bundaberg—Thomas John Smith	Moggill—Christian Andrew Carr Rowan
Bundamba—Lance Richard McCallum	Morayfield—Mark Thomas Ryan
Burdekin—Dale Raymond Last	Mount Ommaney—Jessica Claire Pugh
Burleigh—Michael James Hart	Mudgeeraba—Rosslyn Mary Bates
Burnett—Stephen Andrew Bennett	Mulgrave—Curtis Warren Pitt
Cairns—Michael Patrick Thomas Healy	Mundingburra—Leslie Alexander Walker
Callide—Colin Einar Boyce	Murrumba—Steven John Miles
Caloundra—Jason Edward Hunt	Nanango—Deborah Kay Frecklington
Capalaba—Donald Jon Brown	Nicklin—Robert Clinton James Skelton
Chatsworth—Steven James Minnikin	Ninderry—Daniel Gerard Purdie
Clayfield—Timothy James Nicholls	Noosa—Sandra Leigh Bolton
Condamine—Patrick Thomas Weir	Nudgee—Leanne Maree Linard
Cook—Cynthia Lillian Lui	Oodgeroo—Mark Andrew Robinson
Coomera—Michael John Crandon	Pine Rivers—Nikki Anne Boyd
Cooper—Jonty Maree Bush	Pumicestone—Ali Breeze King
Currumbin—Laura Jane Gerber	Redcliffe—Yvette Maree D'Ath
Everton—Timothy Leonard Mander	Redlands—Kim Elizabeth Richards
Ferny Grove—Mark Lionel Furner	Rockhampton—Barry Leonard O'Rourke
Gaven—Meaghan Alana Jenkins Scanlon	Sandgate—Stirling James Hinchliffe
Gladstone—Glenn James Butcher	Scenic Rim—Jonathan Mark Krause
Glass House—Andrew Cary Powell	South Brisbane—Amy MacMahon
Greenslopes—Joseph Patrick Kelly	Southern Downs—James Paul Lister
Gregory—Lachlan Lucas Millar	Southport—Robert Molhoek
Gympie—Anthony John Perrett	Springwood—Michael Christopher de Brenni
Hervey Bay—Adrian Tantari	Stafford—James Anthony Sullivan
Hill—Shane Andrew Knuth	Stretton—Duncan Andrew Pegg
Hinchinbrook—Nicholas Dametto	Surfers Paradise—John-Paul Honore Langbroek
Inala—Annastacia Palaszczuk	Theodore—Mark Andrew Boothman
Ipswich—Jennifer Ruth Howard	Thuringowa—Aaron David Harper
Ipswich West—James Edward Madden	Toohey—Peter Samuel Russo
Jordan—Charis Mullen	Toowoomba North—Trevor John Watts
Kawana—Jarrod Pieter Bleijie	Toowoomba South—David Carl Janetzki
Keppel—Brittany Louise Lauga	Townsville—Scott James Stewart
Kurwongbah—Shane Roderick King	Traeger—Robert Ignatius Katter
Lockyer—James John McDonald	Warrego—Ann Leahy
Logan—Linus Patrick Power	Waterford—Shannon Maree Fentiman
Lytton—Joan Ellen Pease	Whitsunday—Amanda Jane Camm
Macalister—Melissa Fay McMahon	Woodridge—Cameron Robert Dick
McConnel—Ignazia Grace	

Tabled paper: Writ for the general election held on 31 October 2020 [\[44\]](#).

MEMBERS SWORN

 The commissioners, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Hon. Steven John Miles and the Hon. Cameron Robert Dick, administered the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to themselves and, having been sworn, signed the Roll of Members.


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

PALASZCZUK, Anastacia	KELLY, Joseph Patrick
MILES, Steven John	KING, Ali Breeze
DICK, Cameron Robert	KING, Shane Roderick
GRACE, Ignazia	KNUTH, Shane Andrew
D'ATH, Yvette Maree	KRAUSE, Jonathan Mark
BAILEY, Mark Craig	LANGBROEK, John-Paul Honore
DE BRENNI, Michael Christopher	LAST, Dale Raymond
FENTIMAN, Shannon Maree	LAUGA, Brittany Louise
RYAN, Mark Thomas	LEAHY, Ann
HINCHLIFFE, Stirling James	LISTER, James Paul
FURNER, Mark Lionel	LUI, Cynthia Lillian
ENOCH, Leeanne Margaret	MACMAHON, Amy
BUTCHER, Glenn James	MADDEN, James Edward
FARMER, Dianne Elizabeth	MANDER, Timothy Leonard
CRAWFORD, Craig Daryl	MCCALLUM, Lance Richard
STEWART, Scott James	MCDONALD, James John
SCANLON, Meaghan Alana Jenkins	MCMAHON, Melissa Fay
LINARD, Leanne Maree	MCMILLAN, Corrine Patricia
ANDREW, Stephen Seymour James	MELLISH, Bart John
BATES, Rosslyn Mary	MICKELBERG, Brent Andrew
BENNETT, Stephen Andrew	MILLAR, Lachlan Lucas
BERKMAN, Michael Craig	MINNIKIN, Steven James
BLEIJIE, Jarrod Pieter	MOLHOEK, Robert
BOLTON, Sandra Leigh	MULLEN, Charis
BOOTHMAN, Mark Andrew	NICHOLLS, Timothy James
BOYCE, Colin Einar	O'CONNOR, Samuel Thomas
BOYD, Nikki Anne	O'ROURKE, Barry Leonard
BROWN, Donald Jon	PEASE, Joan Ellen
BUSH, Jonty Maree	PEGG, Duncan Andrew
CAMM, Amanda Jane	PERRETT, Anthony John
CRANDON, Michael John	PITT, Curtis Warren
CRISAFULLI, David Frank	POWELL, Andrew Cary
DAMETTO, Nicholas	POWER, Linus Patrick
FRECKLINGTON, Deborah Kay	PUGH, Jessica Claire
GERBER, Laura Jane	PURDIE, Daniel Gerard
GILBERT, Julieanne Claire	RICHARDS, Kim Elizabeth
HARPER, Aaron David	ROBINSON, Mark Andrew
HART, Michael James	ROWAN, Christian Andrew Carr
HEALY, Michael Patrick Thomas	RUSSO, Peter Samuel
HOWARD, Jennifer Ruth	SAUNDERS, Bruce Mark
HUNT, Jason Edward	SIMPSON, Fiona Stuart
JANETZKI, David Carl	SKELTON, Robert Clinton James
KATTER, Robert Ignatius	SMITH, Thomas John


STEVENS, Raymond Alexander
 SULLIVAN, James Anthony
 TANTARI, Adrian
 WALKER, Leslie Alexander

WATTS, Trevor John
 WEIR, Patrick Thomas
 WHITING, Christopher Guy


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 standing orders for the purposes of the election of a Speaker.


The longest continually serving member of the Legislative Assembly is Ms Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, who was elected on 19 September 1992 and sworn in as a member of the 47th Parliament on 3 November 1992. In accordance with standing order 39, I call on the member for Maroochydore to take the chair as the Presiding Member for the purpose of the election of a Speaker.

 **The PRESIDING MEMBER** (Ms Simpson): Honourable members, before calling for nominations for a Speaker, I draw the attention of honourable members to the standing orders which 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 by a member; and 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 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 this debate. I also remind honourable members that whilst in the chair the Presiding Member has all the powers and authorities of the Speaker. I now call for nominations.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.56 am): Madam Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Mulgrave, Curtis Warren Pitt. I move—


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

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (10.56 am): Madam Presiding Member, I second the nomination and the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for Trade.


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

Mr PITT: I accept the nomination.

The PRESIDING MEMBER: Are there any further nominations?

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.56 am): Madam Presiding Member, I nominate the honourable member for Mermaid Beach. I move—


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

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.57 am): Madam Presiding Member, I second the nomination and motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

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

Mr STEVENS: Madam Presiding Member, I gratefully and humbly accept the nomination.

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

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.57 am): I rise to nominate Mr Curtis Pitt, the honourable member for Mulgrave, as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. If the House elects Mr Pitt as Speaker, I know that he will fulfil the role with distinction and dignity. The member for Mulgrave earnestly and diligently served the 56th Parliament as Speaker. He undertook that role with fairness, integrity and honesty. It is pleasing to see some continuity in that role. If elected, he will be the first Speaker in 15 years, since Speaker Hollis, to serve more than one term in the chair.

Mr Pitt is well respected by members on both sides of this House and on the crossbench, as evidenced by his nomination being seconded last term and this term by a crossbench member, and is well versed in the demands of political life, having been a member of this House since 2009. He served

as a minister in the Bligh government and held quite a number of shadow portfolios during the 54th Parliament, shouldering a heavy workload when opposition numbers were significantly reduced in this House. In the 55th Parliament he held the role of Treasurer, presenting three straight budgets and delivering a surplus, improving Queensland's credit rating, delivering the strongest jobs growth figure in Queensland's history and lowering unemployment with the creation of more than 140,000 new jobs—no mean feat in those times.

The member for Mulgrave follows on in that role from his father, the Hon. Warren Pitt, who represented the people of the Far North electorate for 17 years. He is committed to serving the community he represents and improving the lives of all Queenslanders.


Mr Pitt remains one of our most experienced and senior MPs. He has played, and will continue to play, a leadership role in the Far North. He is a respected voice for regional Queensland more generally. Mr Pitt graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in politics from the James Cook University in Cairns and also worked as a journalist and for local Cairns radio stations 4CA and Hot FM.

The member for Mulgrave's service to the people of Queensland predates his election to this House. Prior to running for the seat of Mulgrave, Mr Pitt was appointed head of the Queensland government's Indigenous Jobs and Enterprises Taskforce. He had previously led the government's business and skilled migration program. As a freshman MP, he brought to this place a reputation for thoughtfulness, a great intellect and a firm commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.

Mr Pitt is a proud father. His family means everything to him and today his wife, Kerry, and children, Tristan, Layla, and Kobi, are here to support him. His pride in them is only equalled by their pride in him.

Having now represented the people of Cairns in this chamber since 2009, both in opposition and in government as well as in the Speaker's chair, he is well versed in the parliamentary and legislative process and will continue to bring that expertise to his role. The parliament needs a person of energy, integrity and experience as its Speaker as well as a person of fairness and even-handedness. I know that, if elected, Mr Pitt will bring his well-known diligence, fairness and attention to detail to the role of Speaker in this House. His experience in managing the business of this House will stand him in good stead during the 57th Parliament. Given his enthusiasm for the game of Rugby League, I am confident that Mr Pitt will apply the same rigour to the rules of parliamentary debate as are applied by the best referees.

Given his expectation that any game of Rugby League should be presided over in a manner that is fair and equitable, I have every confidence that if he is elected Speaker and presides as the ultimate referee of this House Mr Pitt will continue to employ the same expectation of himself to uphold the standing rules, to interpret them fairly and to act impartially. He has an abiding respect and fondness for the institutions and the practices of our Queensland parliament and works hard to ensure the contribution all members make here is of the highest standard. After all, that is what each of us would ask of ourselves in this place. It therefore gives me much pleasure to move that Mr Curtis Pitt, the member for Mulgrave, take the chair of this House as Speaker.


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.01 am): Madam Presiding Member, I rise to second the nomination of the member for Mulgrave as the Speaker of this House and to make some brief comments on the nomination. It has long been the practice in this House that the government of the day provides a nominee for Speaker, giving due consideration to the person who will afford this vital role the respect and diligence that it warrants.

As a new member of this House in the 56th Parliament I valued the counsel and advice afforded by the member for Mulgrave in assisting me and others in carrying out their duties, as well an understanding of the rules and standing orders that apply to proceedings, even though I questioned some of these and will continue to do so.

The role of the Speaker is more than just presiding over the proceedings of the House. The Speaker makes decisions relating to the role of members of this House within their communities and that affect our capacity to undertake that role. Like myself and many others, the member for Mulgrave represents an electorate outside of Brisbane and understands the additional issues that affect members who represent in this House away from their electorates. His understanding of this contributed to the inclusive way he performed the role of Speaker during the 56th Parliament. His endeavours to bring about improved behaviours in this chamber are appreciated, and I will continue to advocate for them on behalf of Queenslanders.

Members sitting on the crossbenches have an important role to play in holding the government to account and ensuring that the views of those we represent are heard. When we speak we should do so with credibility and informed objectivity. Robust debate is essential. Passionate advocacy is vital.

Being respectful of each other in this House and respectful of the institution of the parliament will lead to much better outcomes sought by Queenslanders. We still have a way to go. However, the member for Mulgrave has demonstrated that he is prepared to make this a reality. I have every confidence that the member for Mulgrave will continue to fulfil the role of Speaker in an inclusive, fair and consultative way, showing respect for all members equally and for the practices and conventions of the House. That is why I second the nomination of the member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt, as Speaker of the House. I urge all members to support his nomination which, in turn, demonstrates our commitment to meet the expectations of our communities regarding this parliament and the behaviours and debates within.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.04 am): Madam Presiding Member, I rise to support the member for Mermaid Beach in taking the chair in this very honourable and important role. I do so in recognition of his long and distinguished service, not just in this place but, indeed, in local government. Ray Stevens is a knockabout sort of a bloke. He is someone who shares great relationships with members on both sides of this House. He is a born Queenslander. He served in the Albert shire starting in 1988 as an alderman, and from 1994 to 1997 he was the mayor not only of Albert shire but also of the Gold Coast during a period of great change in the local government landscape. He conducted himself during that time in a manner that the city was proud of.

In 2006 he was elected to this place, and I would like to quote from his maiden speech. It is this quote that I think shows why Ray Stevens would make a fine Speaker. He said—

I believe in strong, unfettered and robust debate carried out with passion, conviction and common sense. However, the principles of fairness, equity and polite consideration should always be the overriding constraints under which such enlivening debate should take place.


His conduct in this place between 2012 and 2015 as Leader of the House also stands him in good stead for this role and is why we nominate him today. Mr Stevens also enjoys a punt. He said to me before we walked in today, 'Crisa, I think I'm long odds. I think I'm blowing out a little bit as we get closer to the event.' With that in mind, can I make some comments about the other nominee, Mr Curtis Pitt.

It was between 2012 and 2015, in a parliament that was lopsided, that the friendship between me and the member for Mulgrave was forged. He is a man of good stature. He is man of decency. In the last parliament he conducted himself in a manner that all members respected and admired. It was in my darkest hour that the true colours of this man came to the fore. I only took two phone calls the morning after an election loss and one of them was from Curtis Pitt. It was at a time when I was looking at Twitter and on my Twitter feed were the sorts of machinations that go on about jostling for positions, and one of the positions being jostled for was the role of Treasurer. Despite all of that, despite all of the pressures, he took the time to reach out to me. That is the mark of a fine human being.

That said, we are putting forward another man of good stature and good integrity and we hope that the House sees value in that nomination. If the vote goes the way that the member for Mermaid Beach has indicated to me it might go, I wish to quote from Mr Speaker's contribution in September to this place where he said—

I wish to affirm the important principle that members should be afforded the opportunity to contribute to parliamentary debate. Accordingly, I will undertake to raise these issues with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to consider whether any changes to legislation, standing orders or sessional orders are warranted.

In the 57th Parliament, where the government does have bolstered numbers, it is more important than ever that every member gets the opportunity to advocate not just for their values but also for their electorates and I sincerely look forward to this parliament abiding by those laws.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.09 am): It is my privilege to second the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and nomination of the member for Mermaid Beach to the high office of Speaker in this House. The office of the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament carries with it significant duties. They are ceremonial, procedural and administrative in nature. The role itself is premised on the position of the Speaker of the House of Commons. As Queensland lacks an upper house I would argue that the role of Speaker is even more vital to the operation of the democratic life of our state, not just for ensuring the necessary scrutiny of legislation but also for the role of interpreting and applying the standing orders to proceedings in this House. This House is Queensland's own forum. It is a place where ideas are tested, often vigorously, and for the government's agenda to be challenged by the opposition and the crossbench. The Speaker bears responsibility for how that testing of ideas is conducted. It is for these solemn responsibilities that the opposition believes the member for Mermaid Beach is perfectly equipped.

The honourable member was born in Townsville and enjoyed a varied career history prior to his election in 2006. He worked for Price Waterhouse in Sydney and spent time on the family cattle and sheep station at Richmond. Surely herding sheep is the ideal preparation for the high office for which

he is nominated today! Upon moving to the Gold Coast the honourable member established business interests across the coast. He cherished a distinguished local government career, serving as the mayor of Albert shire and the Gold Coast city council.

Since his election to parliament, the member for Mermaid Beach has served in a variety of roles, most notably and with distinction as a Leader of the House. Most recently, in the last term of this parliament, he served as deputy chair on the Economics and Governance Committee and as a member of the Ethics Committee. As the Leader of the Opposition has already said, if the member for Mermaid Beach were a betting man he would understand the long odds that face him today.


On that point I note the nomination of the member for Mulgrave for this high office. I also note the dignity and fairness with which the member for Mulgrave discharged his duties during the last term of the parliament. I know that, should he be elected again today, he will continue to display the same impartial and respectful approach in governing this House and the same fine character in his personal dealings with honourable members in this House regardless of their political inclinations.

However, that being said, we know that as a former Leader of the House the member for Mermaid Beach stands ready to work for the good management of the business of this House. This House universally recognises him as a valued and colourful contributor to debates. He has an abiding personal interest in the history of our parliament and our democratic institutions. His integrity and wisdom are unquestioned and his ascension to the role of Speaker would be well and truly deserved. He would bring impartiality and objectivity to this high office, as he has done from the very beginning of his parliamentary career.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has already quoted from the member's outstanding maiden speech and I am going to go there too. He said in this House—

I pledge to you, Mr Speaker, my commitment to uphold the dignity, tradition and respect of parliamentary debate in this House during my whole term of residence.

Those words, which he has lived by for the past 14 years, together with his outstanding legacy of service to the community, say everything about the character of the member for Mermaid Beach. I commend the honourable member to the House.


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (11.12 am): I rise to support the nomination of the member for Mulgrave to the office of Speaker as nominated by the Premier and seconded by the member for Noosa. I endorse the statements made by them both in nominating the member for Mulgrave. He has been our Speaker for the past three years and would bring to the role a continuity of judgement that I believe is worthy of the support of all members of this House. Therefore, I am proud to support him for a further term.

We all come here as passionate representatives of our communities and we debate matters passionately. Sometimes that leads to robust discussion. Very occasionally things get unruly. As Speaker, the member for Mulgrave has proven his ability to maintain decorum in this chamber and to do so in a way that is respectful of all of us and our desires to make a contribution and that is also respectful of the institution of the parliament and how it needs to be perceived by the public. He has always done so with fairness, although occasionally with more fairness than I would have preferred. He bestowed upon me an historic recognition in making me the first minister for quite some time to be ejected. I can assure the House that I learnt my lesson as he had to eject me only once more after that, although for that term I did have the cover of the then member for Cooper, who was useful to hide behind.

The member for Mulgrave has been respected in his role as Speaker, and that is highlighted by the fact that his nomination is seconded by a member of the crossbench and I know it is supported by many on the crossbench. Even the Leader of the Opposition paid him respect while nominating somebody else for the role.

I have known the member for Mulgrave for a long time—long before either of us was in this place—so I can say that he has always acted with integrity and honesty and has sought to serve Queenslanders to the best of his abilities. I congratulate him on his re-election in the seat of Mulgrave. I know he is very passionate about representing that community. It is very appropriate that we have somebody from the state's far north presiding over this chamber for a further term. Of course, he has been a longstanding member of this chamber. I was honoured to serve with him as a minister in the first term of the Palaszczuk government. I know that on every single one of those days he represented his region, our state and his portfolios with great passion and integrity.

I acknowledge the member's passionate advocacy for our state's First Nation people which has shone through his parliamentary service and also his time as Speaker. I acknowledge his family in the gallery and thank them for the sacrifice that they make in allowing him to spend so much time in Brisbane being our Speaker. I support the nomination of the member for Mulgrave and urge other members to vote accordingly.


 **The PRESIDING MEMBER:** Honourable members, a ballot will now be taken in accordance with standing orders. I call the Clerk to conduct the ballot.

At 11.16 am, in accordance with the provisions of standing orders 40 and 41, a ballot was taken by the Clerk with the following result—

Mr Pitt	—	59
Mr Stevens	—	34
Informal	—	0

The Clerk declared the honourable member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt, elected as Speaker.

Mr Pitt was conducted to the chair by the mover and seconder.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country of ours to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.


Honourable members, I am humbled by the faith that you have put in me in electing me as the Speaker of the 57th Parliament. I thank the Premier and the member for Noosa for moving and seconding my nomination. I also wish to thank the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for their words of support. I am also very pleased to see that the chamber is once again full. Sadly, members, it means that there is nowhere for you to hide.

To be re-elected as Speaker after serving in this role in the 56th Parliament is indeed an honour. As you have heard, I will be the first Speaker to have been elected for two consecutive terms—the last being Speaker Hollis almost two decades ago. I am pleased to be able to continue to contribute to our parliamentary democracy through my stewardship of the House.


To those new members sworn in today, I congratulate you and I look forward to hearing your first speeches. As members of parliament, we all share a great privilege in representing our communities in this place, but this privilege draws its strength from the value that the wider community places in our parliament and indeed our democratic system of government. It could be argued that our democracy, in the acceptance of the will of the people, now more than ever is the envy of the world.

I want to importantly thank my wife, Kerry; our children, Tristan, Layla, and Kobi; and my parents, Warren and Linda, for their unwavering support over what is now my fifth term in parliament. I acknowledge that without all of their help and support it would not have been possible to achieve any of the things that I have achieved or will achieve in this place.

My offer to new members, and indeed all members, is that my door is always open to you should you need advice or wish to raise any matter with me. When I first visited Parliament House, it was for the opening of the 46th Parliament as a proud son of a new member. It was then that my deep respect for this institution began. That respect has grown stronger over the years the closer I have been to it. Honourable members, I am humbled to serve again as your Speaker and, once again, I thank you for putting your faith in me.


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.54 am): Mr Speaker, I offer my congratulations on behalf of the government for your elevation once again to the high office of the Speaker of this parliament. As I said previously, you always hold this office with dignity and grace. I also want to congratulate you on behalf of the government for the way in which you have presided over this House during COVID. I join with you in saying how wonderful it is to see all of us once again take our chairs with the new members in this House, which we were prevented from doing due to COVID restrictions. I also acknowledge that your family is unable to be here today, but I know how much they support you and they love you, and family is everything.

This is the people's house. I know you will continue to preside over it in that fashion, and I know that you will always be available. He does put on a very good cup of tea if you ever need to pop into his office to see him. Once again, I offer on behalf of the government our warmest and sincerest congratulations on this high office.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.55 am): Mr Speaker, I join the Premier in congratulating you. Well done on the result. There were electorates decided by a fewer number of people in seats of 30,000 people, so you had a commanding win. Can I say to you that we understand the sacrifice that goes with a job like this. There are few members who live further away from this place than you. When you are representing not just your side of politics but also this House, it comes with a great degree of family sacrifice. You are in Brisbane often representing this chamber when it comes to official dignitaries who are visiting, and that does not go unnoticed, thank you very much. Like the Premier, I look forward to sitting down to some of your hospitality. I personally lean towards the Speakers Gin over the cup of tea—a good Bundaberg product. Mr Speaker, thank you again, and best wishes on behalf of the opposition for your role in the term ahead.


Mr SPEAKER: Thanks very much.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.56 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 for those members who have not made their own arrangements and will leave the Parliamentary Annexe at 1.45 pm. Honourable members should be at the Parliamentary Annexe main entrance no later than 1.40 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 Trade) (11.57 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 2.10 pm on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 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 Trade) (11.57 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 11.57 am.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting