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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 11 October 2022

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TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2022



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting 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 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.

ASSENT TO BILL



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to a bill. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of His Majesty The King on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 15 September 2022

A bill for an Act to amend the Holidays Act 1983 and the Industrial Relations Act 2016 for particular purposes.

This Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

15 September 2022

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 September 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 15 September 2022 [1510].

MOTION

Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.31 am): I move—

That the following address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor for forwarding to His Majesty King Charles the Third—

'We, the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Queensland, place on record our deep sadness on the death of Queen Elizabeth the Second.'

On behalf of the people of Queensland, we give thanks for The Late Queen Elizabeth the Second's years of dedicated service and duty to Queensland and to the Commonwealth and express our deepest sympathy to Your Majesty and other members of the Royal Family on the loss they have sustained.'

We also extend our sincere congratulations to Your Majesty on your accession to the throne and express our wishes that your reign is a long and happy one and that it may be distinguished by peace, prosperity and general advancement within Queensland and the Commonwealth.'

For the vast majority of us, our working life starts in our late teens or early 20s. For most of us, we know that after 40—at most 50—years of work we can look forward to a life of retirement. When the young Princess Elizabeth became the Queen of a vast Commonwealth, she was just 26 and she

accessed to the throne in tragic, unforeseen circumstances after the sudden death of her father the King. When she did so, the new Queen said her life—whether it be long or whether it be short—would be dedicated absolutely to service. Never was a truer commitment made.

For 70 years—through tumultuous world events, through personal triumphs and tragedies, through decades when she and her family were rarely out of the public eye—Queen Elizabeth II kept her promise. For 70 years she maintained her quiet dignity, her unwavering devotion to the millions throughout the Commonwealth for whom she was a much admired sovereign and her unmatched, faithful dedication to service. We should each take a moment to consider that—70 years. It was 70 years of resolute constancy. It was 70 years of enduring allegiance and loyalty. It was a long life committed to each country of the Commonwealth, a long life dedicated to duty and right up until just days before the end of that long life.

When Queen Elizabeth passed away on 8 September I know the news was received with a sense of disbelief, despite the fact she had reached the age of 96. The world entered a new realm. Could it really be that this trusted, respected, warm figure each of us grew up with and had known as the only monarch in our lifetimes would no longer cast her long shadow across the globe? For each of us in this place, she was the only sovereign we had ever known. Only very, very few of us in this state and this country had known another. Her passing is an event unprecedented in most of our lifetimes.

Queen Elizabeth was much admired by Australians and by Queenslanders and her passing marked the end of a long and close relationship with our state, reaching back 68 years to when she first visited us. That first official visit to Queensland was in 1954. It took place only nine months after her coronation. When she arrived in Brisbane on 9 March that year she was the first reigning monarch to visit Queensland. The following day she, of course, was at work in her official capacity becoming the first sovereign to preside over a meeting of Queensland's executive council. At that meeting, the Queensland government committed \$6,000 to the coronation fund, which allocated that funding to support maternal and child welfare in our state.

Outside of attending to government business, it is still clear today in grainy footage that the Queen took enormous enjoyment in meeting and engaging with Queenslanders on her subsequent tour of the state. This tour was extensive, including visits to Bundaberg, Oakey, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton and the Great Barrier Reef. In subsequent tours her admiration for Queensland was reflected in the ground she covered from Coolangatta to Longreach to Mount Isa to Cooktown and to Coolum.

In all, Queen Elizabeth came to Queensland on eight official tours—1954, 1963, 1970 and 1977, when the Queen and Prince Philip visited to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of her reign. In 1982, the Queen and her husband attended the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, with Prince Philip opening the games and the Queen closing the event. The Queen was back in Brisbane to open Expo 88 and in 2002 she officially opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on the Sunshine Coast.

Queen Elizabeth's final official visit to Queensland was in 2011. Communities and Queenslanders from Brisbane to Cairns and beyond remained in shock, with homes in ruins and lives shattered in the wake of a devastating flood disaster and the havoc wreaked by Cyclone Yasi. During that final visit she paid tribute to Queenslanders for the resilience and courage they had shown. She took a touching interest in hearing their stories. The Queen genuinely wanted to understand how our state and our people had suffered and what they were doing to pick up the pieces. The affection in which Queenslanders regarded her was evident and obvious from the thousands who lined the route on her public walk in Brisbane.

That affection was duplicated across the world, especially throughout the Commonwealth. The Queen was a unifying presence for the counties of the Commonwealth and that presence was strengthened by the more than 200 visits she paid to those countries. I know that millions of people throughout those countries, including Australia, and Queensland will miss the comfort and reassurance of her presence. I know they will miss the dignity, grace and courage with which she reigned. They will remember her devotion to duty over more than seven decades.

As a mark of respect, some normal government functions were suspended while a period of mourning was observed. In recognition of her contribution to our country, a National Day of Mourning and public holiday was declared for Thursday, 22 September 2022. The bells at Brisbane City Hall tolled 70 times paying tribute to 70 years of dedicated service. At 11 am Queenslanders joined people across the country taking part in a minute's silence to honour the Queen. Thousands of Queenslanders shared messages in condolence books which will be presented to Buckingham Palace.

I had the privilege of attending the national memorial service in Canberra in the Queen's honour, along with the Prime Minister and hundreds of other Australian leaders past and present. Prior to that service—like millions of other Queenslanders—I watched the Queen's state funeral broadcast from Westminster Abbey and could not help but be moved by the tributes to Her Majesty and by the grace and dignity of the event.

The crown has now passed to His Majesty King Charles III. The proclamation of the new monarch was made in the United Kingdom and here the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency the Hon. Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM, also read the proclamation at both Government House and Parliament House. While we are saddened by the death of the Queen, the people of Queensland are comforted and confident in the knowledge that King Charles III brings immense experience, wisdom and dignity to the throne, having watched and learnt from such a gracious role model as his mother. Just as the Queen often demonstrated an ability to cut through the formalities to meet people from all cultures throughout Australia and Queensland, we can already see King Charles's accession has been welcomed.

As Prince Charles, he was the longest serving heir apparent in British history, having assumed the position at the age of just three. Our new King—the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth—has visited Queensland on seven official tours and Australia 16 times. This includes a visit in 2018 for the opening of the 21st Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

Mr Speaker, the crowds of well-wishers at the Botanic Gardens in Brisbane, on the Gold Coast, and in Bundaberg and Cairns on this 2018 tour demonstrated an admiration for the new monarch by Queenslanders. He spoke of Australians' strength, their generosity of spirit and unstoppable courage. He had seen great resilience in Bundaberg, where the community was recovering from flooding. He visited Lady Elliot Island where he attended a meeting convened by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to discuss coral resilience in the iconic reef. By all accounts, King Charles has created many happy memories here in Queensland and we warmly welcome any future visit His Majesty may decide to undertake.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Queensland and on behalf of Queensland, I send respectful best wishes to King Charles III for a long and happy reign. In conclusion, Mr Speaker, I say vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): It is with a sense of pride but with a heavy heart that I offer the support of the opposition to the motion that has been moved by the Premier. The motion is the fifth that has been moved since the establishment of the colony of Queensland in 1859 and the constitution of this parliament in 1860 to recognise the passing of the monarch and the accession of a new monarch.

While sometimes a motion of condolence and a separate motion of congratulation has been moved—most recently in 1952—this House has expressed its sentiments on the passing of the monarch on four previous occasions—1901, 1910, 1936 and 1952. None of us in the House today remember any other monarch but Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Very few Queenslanders remember the reigns of Her Majesty's father, uncle or grandfather.

Indeed, Her Majesty's 70-year reign has covered the periods in office of 12 Queensland governors—from Sir John Lavarack to Dr Jeannette Young—and the administrations of 13 premiers—from Vince Gair to the current Premier, the member for Inala. This is a record that none of us can reasonably expect to see surpassed. It speaks volumes for the role the Crown plays in our society—a symbol of continuity, a bulwark against impetuous and untested change and a common rallying point in times of crisis.

In a time of reflection we should note that the Crown is one maintained not by sword or might but by humility, service and love. Her Majesty's success in maintaining the monarchy throughout her reign is even more remarkable when it is remembered that, at the time of her birth, no-one could have foreseen that she would have ever been crowned Queen.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on 21 April 1926, the first child of Albert, Duke of York, second son of George V, and the Duchess of York, the former Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. The death of George VI in 1936 brought her uncle to the throne as Edward VIII—in a reign that was to end before the year was out. The Duke of York succeeded his brother as George VI and Princess Elizabeth's future was forever changed.

It was on her 21st birthday that Princess Elizabeth set out the guiding principles which remained with her throughout her entire reign. In a speech from South Africa in 1947 she said—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

No pledge could have been more sincerely given nor more earnestly kept. The hallmark of Her Majesty's 70-year reign is service—service to her nation, service to her people and service to the Commonwealth. Her Majesty herself recognised the importance of her pledge and reiterated its influence on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee in 1977. She stated—

When I was 21, I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret, or detract, one word of it.

It was this characteristic that was captured so eloquently by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in his sermon for Her Majesty's State Funeral held at Westminster Abbey on 19 September when he said—

People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.

Her Majesty reigned through a period of incredible change—the transformation of the British Empire to the Commonwealth, the coming of the space age highlighted by the 1969 moon landing, the Cold War and its culmination in the fall of the Berlin Wall, the changes to Britain's relationship with Europe, the growth of science and technology and the age of the internet. It is these changing events that marked the new Elizabethan age.

Yet, despite being the head of an institution that extended back in history 1,000 years, Her Majesty embraced the changes that contemporary society demanded. Indeed, her coronation in 1953 was the first to be televised. A constant throughout all this was her addresses to the nation, both in times of celebration and in times of crisis, and her annual Christmas speeches to the entire Commonwealth where she would reflect upon the events of the year.

In so doing Her Majesty adopted and extended the practice first undertaken by her grandfather, George V. In an era long before the internet was contemplated and television itself was unfamiliar to the vast majority of the Commonwealth's and world's population, the use of radio broadcasts was used to relay Her Majesty's perspective to millions of people who would otherwise have little connection to their sovereign.

It was the Queen who first developed a close and lasting relationship with Australia. When the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh returned to London upon the death of the King in 1952, they were on the first stages of a visit which was intended to include Australia. Two years later Queen Elizabeth became the first reigning monarch to visit Australia. From her first visit in 1954—reputed to have been witnessed by over 70 per cent of the population—the Queen has been to Australia on 16 occasions. On eight of these occasions she visited Queensland—the last time being in 2011, partly in recognition of those Queenslanders who suffered through the natural disasters of 2010 and 2011.

Queensland has always extended a warm welcome to Her Majesty and has always looked forward to royal visits and appreciated the genuine interest Her Majesty held in the lives and activities of the many thousands of Queenslanders with whom she came into contact. While Brisbane was often the focus of these visits, Her Majesty travelled the length and breadth of the state during her 70-year reign. In so doing Her Majesty brought to the people of Queensland that to which they are entitled—a connection to their monarch and a sense that their monarch possessed an understanding and appreciation of their circumstances.

To the Queen this was the essence of contemporary monarchy—regal fiat was no longer sufficient to win the respect and support of the population. The monarchy had to reflect—to the maximum extent possible—a modern understanding of its responsibilities and the expectations of the people of the Commonwealth. This was not something done in the twinkling of an eye, but it was achieved over time through consistent and persistent hard work and effort.

In Her Majesty's case this was done through the championing of various environmental causes, particularly in later years through the assistance of Sir David Attenborough, her connections to the various military units throughout the Commonwealth, her reflection of the hurt and concern that often accompanied world events, such as her response to the COVID-19 challenge, and her ability to empathise with and comfort those in difficult circumstances.

The fact that the Queen herself faced challenges throughout her life, including the trials and tribulations of the Second World War, the early death of her father and the reaction to the death of the Princess of Wales helped provide the grounding needed to act as a symbol of unity and perseverance in the face of nationwide upheavals. I can think of no more accurate description of the role Her Majesty played than that provided by a BBC commentator on the day of the State Funeral when he said—

She visited the places that needed to be visited and thanked the people that needed to be thanked.

As unpretentious as that might sound it captures the essence of Her Majesty's commitment to her role, it embraces all aspects of the notion of service and commitment and reflects Her Majesty's continuing adherence to the pledge she gave in 1947. It is speculated that Her Majesty's response to her uncle's abdication motivated her throughout her 70 years on the throne. This obligation was not one to be cast aside on a whim but embraced and pursued, because that is what she pledged to do. There are few in contemporary society who would accept such a challenge and then meet it head on until nearly 100 years had passed. For this we should all be thankful.

While some may have misgivings about the notion of monarchy, few would question Her Majesty's commitment—both to her role as Head of State in Australia and as Head of the Commonwealth. Her support for many charities, her unswerving devotion to her people—wherever they lived—and her willingness to undertake the burdens that that position often thrust upon her makes Her Majesty an exemplar to us all.

If we could all harness her dedication and commitment we would help create a more generous, understanding and tolerant society. It should be remembered that Her Majesty was one of the most accomplished leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries. She knew the great men and women who made history and she was able to the influence the events that moulded our world. It should be recalled that her first British prime minister, Winston Churchill, was born in the middle of the Victorian age nearly 150 years ago. Importantly, she saw the value of genuine leadership and the impact it could have on the wellbeing of the entire population. In an address to the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010 she set out her views on the power of leadership. She said—

I know of no single formula for success, but over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together.

This was her great strength. Unable to wield formal power like the elected leaders of the world's 200 nations, she wielded the power of influence to achieve universal goals free from the demands of partisan politics. For this we should all be thankful. Her experience, her understanding of world events and their historical context and her familiarity with those world leaders made her contribution over 70 years of invaluable importance.

Throughout her reign Her Majesty adhered to the declaration she made to her Accession Council in 1952 when she said—

My heart is too full to say more to you to-day than that I shall always work, as my father did throughout his reign, to uphold constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples, spread as they are all the world over. I know that in my resolve to follow his shining example of service and devotion I shall be inspired by the loyalty and affection of those whose Queen I have been called to be, and by the counsel of their elected Parliaments. I pray that God will help me to discharge worthily this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in my life.

For this steadfastness and commitment we are grateful.

The second part of this motion extending congratulations to His Majesty King Charles III looks forward to the future with optimism. Just as Her Majesty reigned for over 70 years, no monarch has received such extensive training as His Majesty for the responsibilities that now rest on his shoulders. He possesses an affinity with Australia arising from the many times he has visited this country, and the breadth and depth of this engagement here provides a sound basis for the strengthening of this relationship. We look forward with optimism to these special bonds being strengthened over the coming years, and we are confident that His Majesty will come to enjoy the same special relationship that characterised Her Majesty's involvement with Australia and its people. The second Elizabethan age has ended. We are confident that the reign of King Charles will build upon the process seen under Her Majesty. We look forward to the day when Queenslanders can welcome King Charles to our state to renew the strong bonds that already exist.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.52 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II.

On 8 September the second Elizabethan age came to a close. For seven decades Queen Elizabeth II reigned as monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. For 70 years she served her country and the Commonwealth, including Queensland, becoming a model of duty and service. I think that those of us who seek to serve our own communities can especially admire how extraordinary her service was. Former Australian prime minister Paul Keating reflected on the Queen's legacy. He said—

In the 20th century, the self become privatised, while the public realm, the realm of the public good, was broadly neglected.

Queen Elizabeth understood this and instinctively attached herself to the public good against what she recognised as a tidal wave of private interest and private reward. And she did this for a lifetime. Never deviating.

Her service began well before her coronation when she trained as a mechanic and truck driver during the Second World War against her parents' wishes. During the closing years of the war she served alongside soldiers from across the Commonwealth, serving her country in the fight against fascism. When Germany surrendered in 1945 she snuck out of the palace and joined the people in the streets. She spent the night mingling with her countryfolk in celebration, and she later spoke of the tide of happiness and relief that swept them down Whitehall.

Broadcasting from South Africa after the war she made a solemn promise. She said—

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service ...

When she acceded to the throne in 1952 she kept that promise, putting duty above all else—duty to her people, duty to her nation and duty to the Commonwealth.

She was often with us here in Queensland to celebrate our successes and mourn with us during our hardest times. In 1988 the Queen officially opened Expo 88, an event that defined us for decades to come and turned Brisbane into a proper capital city in the eyes of the world—one capable of hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In 2011 she met with flood victims, reassuring Queenslanders during one of our most heart-wrenching natural disasters.

For the first time in most of our lives we find ourselves without that presence. We join the Commonwealth and the world to mourn her loss and remember her legacy. The world has changed in just about every conceivable way during her reign. The last vestiges of Empire were done away with as the Commonwealth embraced self-determination, but she remained a constant. Perhaps the only constant of the last 70 years has been her reign. During her 70 years as Queen she was sovereign of a total of 32 independent countries, but at the time of her death that number was just 15. She did not begrudge countries their independence. In fact, members of the Royal Family were permitted to attend Independence Day ceremonies in those countries.

She showed that service need not always be solemn and that it is okay to have some fun too. In 1998 the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia visited the Queen at Balmoral Castle for lunch, and she offered the Prince a tour of the vast and rugged estate. To his surprise, it was not the Queen's driver who took the driver's seat of the Land Rover but the Queen herself. Women were not permitted to drive in Saudi Arabia at that time. When the Prince was asked about the incident he said, 'I suspect that Her Majesty steers the ship of state more steadily than she drives a Land Rover.' When walking at Balmoral with her protection officer, Richard Griffin, two American hikers asked her if she had ever met the Queen. She said, 'Well, Dick here meets her regularly.' The starstruck tourists asked the Queen to take a photo for them with Mr Griffin, which she did.

It is not a controversial thing to say that for many Australians monarchy is divisive. It should be okay to acknowledge the harm done in the name of colonisation while also recognising the positive contribution of the Queen. Whatever you think of the institution, for me the Queen as an individual was an example of duty and service above oneself. Months before her passing on her Platinum Jubilee she renewed her commitment to the Commonwealth. She said—

... it gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service ...

We also today congratulate King Charles III on his accession to the throne. I have seen firsthand the new King's warm affection for Queensland and Queenslanders. In 2018, as health minister I hosted the then Prince on a tour of the Queensland Children's Hospital. The children and families loved their time with him. Some of the children made lamingtons by hand which they presented to both of us. The Prince looked at the lamington politely. I looked at him and said, 'I think we have to eat it.' He said firmly, 'I will not.' That is how I became the only person—I think in the world—to have told the King to eat a lamington. We look forward to welcoming King Charles III on his first visit to Queensland as King. We thank Queen Elizabeth II for a lifetime of service and congratulate King Charles III on his accession to the throne.

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.59 am): On 8 September we lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth II. Like millions of people around the world, I felt a profound sense of sadness and disbelief. It is a day that we knew was coming but had hoped and prayed never did. Many people have reflected on Her Majesty's passing, and the speech she made with respect to her service of life has been quoted this morning by the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Premier. What many people do not know is that she made that speech on her 21st birthday.

I would challenge honourable colleagues in this room to recall what they were doing on their 21st birthdays, if they have any recollection of that occasion, but this was the way of our monarchy. This was a young princess on her 21st birthday. When we would ordinarily be celebrating that dubious occasion, the young princess said—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do.

That was said in 1947, and I think we have shown Her Majesty the Queen that we did join her, we did take up that invitation. Little was it known to her or anyone at that time when she made that speech that a few short years later she would become Queen, Queen of Australia, Queen of Queensland.

Opposition members gathered yesterday and celebrated another milestone—that is, my honourable colleague the member for Maroochydore's 30 years' service to this House. If we doubled that service and added 10, that is the service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as our Queen. You have a bit of catching up to do, member for Maroochydore.

In 2002 the Queen visited the Sunshine Coast. She went to CHOGM and I recall the streets lined with wellwishers. I was a young boy lining the streets in 2002 wishing to get that glimpse of Her Majesty the Queen as she headed to the CHOGM meeting. In 2011 she visited Queensland after the floods and I have recalled in the parliament before the occasion that I too lined the streets with many thousands of Queenslanders over at South Bank wishing to grab that glimpse of Her Majesty as we watched her do what she did best—that is, comfort people and talk to people. She had a deep understanding and a real commitment to the people of Queensland. It was not just a show; she had a real understanding and a deep understanding of wanting to know what people were feeling and how the comfort of the Queen could help in those terrible situations.

Although the first reigning monarch to Queensland was in fact Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1954, many royal tours and visits had taken place in our sunny state since 1868. Edward Prince of Wales, who had served in World War I and was awarded the Military Cross, came by train to Beerburnum via the north coast line on Wednesday, 4 August 1920 to the electorate of my honourable colleague the member for Glass House. I would put it to the House that if a member of the Royal Family travelled on the north coast line now they would probably say that not much had changed since Edward Prince of Wales was there in 1920 unfortunately. I will have more to say on that later.

I also recall a story from my honourable colleague the member for Mermaid Beach, Mr Ray Stevens. He had the opportunity as a young boy to present a flower bouquet to the Queen, but he unfortunately had his foot scalded and burnt so someone else, Johnny from memory—

Mr Stevens: Tommy.

Mr BLEIJIE: Tommy took the flower bouquet so Mr Stevens could not give the bouquet to the Queen. He was very sad about that.

When I was the Attorney-General in this state, I had the honour of naming the courts the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law in honour of Her Majesty for her Diamond Jubilee. I am proud that whenever anyone attends the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law they can pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, although many people who go to the courts are not there for particularly happy purposes or as tourists. That said, it will be there. We did that because we wanted to honour Her Majesty for the Diamond Jubilee.

Queen Elizabeth II was a modern monarch. She had a wicked sense of humour, and stories relating to that have been told this morning. People would not forget the London Olympics, where James Bond collected Her Majesty with her corgis. It is debatable whether Her Majesty actually jumped out of the helicopter. I would hope, as the admirer that I am, that she did and it was actually her but her face was never seen on the video so it is debatable. She had a wicked sense of humour. The story of the American tourists was told by the Deputy Premier. It is a true story. When she was asked, 'Have you ever met the Queen?' she answered, 'No, but he has,' and then proceeded to take the photo.

Her Majesty was about service to people, not service to self. I think we saw that over the 70 years that she reigned as our Queen. Could you imagine being under the guidelines of the monarch not speaking about politics while being someone who keenly watched politics? As our monarch and head of state, she was so interested in politics but she was not able to freely speak what she thought outside of closed doors. One would have loved to have been a fly on a wall on many occasions with all the prime ministers, governors, governors-general and premiers that the Queen had served under her reign.

The Queen loved the Commonwealth. She absolutely loved the people of the Commonwealth. She brought the Commonwealth together. She modernised the Commonwealth. She modernised the monarchy. I think that is why we are seeing the outpouring of grief and support for our Constitutional monarchy today, with the support being as strong as it has ever been in our history.

Prime Minister Gough Whitlam introduced the Royal Style and Titles Act. Following the passage of the Whitlam government's Royal Style and Titles Act, the Queen's official title was amended. From that time on, she was thereafter known as Queen of Australia in her capacity as the Australian monarch. The first function Queen Elizabeth II attended as Queen of Australia after the passage of the new law was a lunch at the Lodge in 1973 at which the then senior president of the Labor Party, Jack Egerton, greeted her by remarking, 'They tell me, love, you've been naturalised.'

I place on record my congratulations to our new King, King Charles III, on his accession to the throne. I take this opportunity to affirm my allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III. I first met King Charles when he was Prince of Wales in Longreach for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012. I then met Prince Charles during his visit to Brisbane in 2018 in the Botanical Gardens, where my children and I lined up to greet the Prince, and also at Government House that night. There are many stories from people who have met members of the Royal Family that you do get very nervous and very sweaty, and I can attest to the House that it is absolutely true. When I met Prince Charles at Government House and greeted him, I said, 'Your Royal Highness, I met you first in Longreach,' and I gave a date of 2013 or 2014. He corrected me and said, 'It was actually 2012.' It was like a hole had opened up and I had just sunk, because I had prepared for this moment to meet His Royal Highness at Government House and I completely botched the date up.

Mr Mander: Did he remember you?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. Yes, he did remember meeting me in Longreach in 2012, but I completely stuffed the date up and it was His Royal Highness who corrected me.

From what I have seen of His Royal Highness and his training to be our monarch, I know that King Charles III will be a great King, supported by the Queen Consort Camilla. They love Australia and they love Queensland. I look forward to when they and other members of the Royal Family come to Queensland to visit us. I think the future is bright for our Constitutional monarchy. Of the top five functioning democracies in the world, four are Constitutional monarchies and I think that shows the great legacies of Constitutional monarchies. That is why as one of the national spokespersons of the Australian Monarchist League I will always defend the stability and calmness of our Constitutional democracy—and that is our Constitutional monarchy—because it has served Australia, it has served Queensland and it has served our people well.

I congratulate the new King. I know he will be a great King for Queensland and for Australia. How do I know this? It is because he was trained by the very best, Elizabeth the Great.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to place on record my sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I endorse the sentiments of the previous speakers on this condolence motion. I express my deepest condolences to the Royal Family on the passing of Her Majesty.

The Queen served as the longest reigning British monarch, ascending to the throne at just 26 years of age in 1952. Her Majesty's devotion to duty and service to the Crown and Commonwealth over seven decades is greatly respected and will be long remembered. From the atomic age to the age of social media, the reign of Queen Elizabeth II oversaw 15 British prime ministers, 16 Australian prime ministers and 13 Queensland premiers. Queen Elizabeth even outlasted the reign of the most imperious of British monarchs, Queen Victoria, for whom Queensland is named after.

We were fortunate to have Her Majesty visit Queensland parliament on several occasions over the years, including a visit in 1954 when she became the first reigning British monarch to visit Australia. Queen Elizabeth II also visited the Queensland parliament in October 1982 to open the renovated Parliament House.

Queen Elizabeth was part of the Queensland story, from touring regional towns in the 1954 regional tour, to opening the 1982 Commonwealth Games and Expo 88, to opening the 2002 CHOGM in Coolangatta. As Queensland came of age, the Queen was there. I was pleased to meet Her Majesty and Prince Philip when they visited Brisbane in 2011. For Queenslanders, the Queen was a fixture in public life and it will be hard to forget her presence over the decades.

We now have a new king, Charles III, who we wish well. I enjoyed watching the basketball with His Majesty at the Commonwealth Games in 2018—real royalty, sitting next to Lauren Jackson, Australian basketball royalty. King Charles III, we all know, will bring the same devotion of service as Queen Elizabeth II who we will miss. Vale, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I understand it is the wish of honourable members to signify at this stage of the condolence motion their respect and sympathy by rising in their place, and I ask all present to do so for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members. I thank the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.12 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II. On 8 September 2022, we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen faithfully served in the role for over 70 years and was the first and only reigning monarch to visit Australia. Whether you are a monarchist or not, there is undoubtedly a huge and shared respect across the political divides for the life that she dedicated to public service; indeed, a great female leader. There is no doubt she was loved, respected and admired right across our state for her dignity, dare I say grace and strength.

The Queen visited Queensland on eight occasions, the first visit being just two years into her reign, all the way back in 1954. The Queen visited again in 1963, 1970, 1977, 1982, 1988 when she opened the Brisbane Expo and 2002. Her final visit was in October 2011 to show her support of Queenslanders who suffered in the floods and Cyclone Yasi that occurred earlier that year. Across those visits she took the time to visit regional centres as well as Brisbane, including Cairns and our Great Barrier Reef, Mackay, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Townsville, Bundaberg and Toowoomba. It is remarkable to think that during her reign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was served by 15 Australian prime ministers, 16 governors-general of Australia, and 13 Queensland premiers. In the United Kingdom, her reign spanned 15 prime ministers, from Churchill to Truss. I cannot imagine that one person will ever again have the inside gain from so many private conversations with world leaders.

On September 11, Queenslanders and Australians had the opportunity to welcome King Charles III. As the saying goes, long live the King. The proclamation was an historical event, the first that most Australians would have ever seen. In honour of the Queen and to commemorate Her Majesty's remarkable life and her dedication to service, Australia held a national day of mourning public holiday on Thursday, 22 September 2022. As Industrial Relations Minister, I stood in this House to bring in legislation so that Queensland could play our role in this national day. The national day of mourning for Her Majesty the Queen was of historical significance, and much genuine public grief has been expressed at the passing of the Queen. The public holiday allowed the people of Queensland to honour the passing of the Queen and to commemorate the Queen's remarkable life and outstanding dedication to service. I know that the national day of mourning for Her Majesty the Queen gave Queenslanders a chance to remember the Queen's long, dedicated and faithful service.

I send my deepest sympathy and condolences to King Charles III, all members of the Royal Family, her staff and friends. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.15 am): I wish to associate myself with the sentiments of loss and condolence expressed by the members of this parliament and to be expressed by members of this the 57th Parliament of Queensland. It was way back in 2006, in the 55th year of the late Queen's reign, that I first took the oath of allegiance and office as a member of the 52nd Parliament of Queensland. Since then I have sworn that same oath a further five times, and I have also had the privilege of taking the oath of a minister of the Crown on two occasions. Each time I did so it was, and even today continues to be, an honour to bear true allegiance to the monarch and to serve the people of Queensland.

As I reflected on each of those occasions and the meaning of the oath of allegiance and office, and the passing of the Queen, I seem somehow to land on two salient features: firstly, I did think how long I had been in elected office, including my six years as a Brisbane City councillor and subsequent

16 years in this place and, secondly, on what allegiance and service really does mean. While each of us might consider the length of our time in this place as some sort of yardstick of success, that yardstick is indeed very short when we stop to consider the length of service of Queen Elizabeth II and the second Elizabethan age. As has been noted by others, she enjoyed the longest reign of any British monarch at 70 years, seven months and two days. While the duration of her reign was remarkable, I believe it was who she was and how she reigned over that time that made her such an outstanding and well-loved Queen of Australia, her other realms and territories and head of the Commonwealth.

Unfailingly, there was her cheerful dignity on display at every public occasion, and especially so on any one of her 16 visits to Australia and eight to Queensland. There was her consideration for those in distress, whether that was from natural disasters or man-made calamity. There was the famous British and Australian trait of stoicism that we witnessed on so many occasions, whether that was the annus horribilis year of 1992 or, for me, the almost unbearable poignancy of seeing her sitting alone in St George's Chapel at Windsor mourning the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip.

There was the understanding, compassion and sense of hope for a better future in the many speeches she delivered, some in the darkest of days and most recently in COVID times. There was also the joy she brought to so many, whether through an official telegram on reaching 100 years of age or a kind word to someone in a crowd while she was on tour. The late Queen embodied and displayed what I believe was the very best of our instincts, what Abraham Lincoln described as the better angels of our nature. She was the last monarch to serve in uniform in war. She was there during the Blitz and there again on VE Day.

From her coronation in 1952, she had 16 Australian prime ministers, from Menzies to Albanese, and outlived eight of them. In the United Kingdom, she had 14, from Churchill to Truss. She is the only monarch the vast majority of us have ever known and, while not ageless, she has been enduring and a touchstone and reassurance in an ever-changing world.

She has gone from a time of black and white television to recording afternoon tea with Paddington Bear. As Queen, she formed part of the almost unexplainable union of members of parliament, the executive and the Crown that defines the Westminster parliamentary system—to my mind, the best form of government and the most advantageous way of advancing the cause of humankind yet devised. She did so with grace and humility and stood as a living symbol of the values and traditions of a thousand years of progress and democracy. It is now a role to be assumed by her son King Charles III.

Amongst all her other roles, of course, she had the very human roles of wife, mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Like so many families, hers had its trials and tribulations. Rarely is any family perfect. However, very few of us have to see our family lives played out in such a public way as those of the Royal Family. While I personally cannot abide most of the gossip, rumour and innuendo passed off as royal news, the Queen had to live it every day, from tabloids to TV series. That she was able to do so with such dignity again pays testament to her values and her deep and abiding faith. Much has been said and much more will be recorded about Her Majesty, and so it should be. Her reign was remarkable; her behaviour and actions, an example of fidelity, service and obligation we would all do well to emulate. Her like will not be seen again. May Her Majesty rest in well-earned peace and God save the King.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.20 am): I rise to speak in support of this condolence motion. When we talk about the great people in history they tend to share one quality: regardless of what period in time they walked the earth, their race or their gender, they all put service above everything else. Queen Elizabeth II certainly earned her spot on that list.

The Queen's passing a little over a month ago has seen her missed and remembered by many. It is not just those in the British Isles but also by people who do not even consider themselves monarchists. In fact, for most of us, Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch we have known in our lifetime. Her passing is a profound moment in our history. We can look to her as an example of how we should be: her strength in leadership, the stability she brought in an ever changing world and, more importantly, her dedication to helping others.

Our health workers share that dedication to helping others, but it is not the only connection between the Royal Family and Queensland Health. The QEII Jubilee Hospital in Coopers Plains on Brisbane's south side was, of course, named after Queen Elizabeth II. Just eight kilometres north in Woolloongabba is the Princess Alexandra Hospital, which was named after the Queen's cousin Princess Alexandra of Kent. Across the river in Chermside is the Prince Charles Hospital, which was named after the now King Charles III.

Those three hospitals are amongst the largest in Australia. The QEII Jubilee Hospital was originally conceived in 1968 and in 1977 it was renamed to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Queen's royal reign. QEII was the first public hospital in Queensland to be operated as a business by volunteer workers. The hospital also pioneered the first computer-assisted micrographic archiving of medical records, X-rays and patient chart systems. QEII also provided medical and dental services for major events, including the 1982 Commonwealth Games. Today it remains one of Queensland's most important hospitals and its endoscopy unit is the most advanced diagnostic facility in Australia.

The Prince Charles Hospital opened in 1954 as the Brisbane chest hospital, a facility originally designed to treat tuberculosis patients. With the successful tuberculosis eradication program, it was then named the Chermside hospital in 1961. It was again renamed the Prince Charles Hospital in 1974 after a visit from the then His Royal Highness Prince Charles.

The hospital crest was granted in June 1977 by the King of Arms and artwork for the approved designs was conceived in 1979. The red dragon on the hospital crest is a reference to then Prince Charles and the Prince of Wales badge. The Prince Charles Hospital motto 'we serve' was also inspired by the personal motto of the then His Royal Highness—now His Majesty—being 'I serve'. On that basis it appears King Charles III will admirably fill the enormous void left by his mother. As for the hospital which bears his name, it is now a major tertiary referral hospital for cardiac and thoracic services. It continues to deliver world-class services including emergency medicine, mental health services and orthopaedic surgery.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Buckingham Palace and the Royal Family following the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I would also like to acknowledge the Queen for not only her devotion to service and vehement support of hospital and healthcare services, but also her regular acknowledgement of the compassion and fortitude of healthcare workers across the Commonwealth.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate His Majesty King Charles III for his accession to the throne and Australia's head of state. He has been a champion for a number of causes throughout his life and I look forward to watching him carry on the tradition of service and duty set by his late mother. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.24 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion of condolence. Grief is the price we pay for love. They are the poignant words of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the hours following the September 11 attacks in the United States. These are words that encapsulated the feelings of many throughout our state, our nation, the Commonwealth and the world following the passing of Her Majesty. The fact that the words of a British monarch brought such comfort to those in a country that had so fiercely fought for independence from Britain said much about the tragedy that was 9/11 and even more about Her Majesty.

I vividly recall, like thousands of police officers across Queensland, that upon entering the Queensland Police Service I swore an oath to well and truly serve Queen Elizabeth and her heirs and successors and to cause Her Majesty's peace to be kept and preserved. In the days following her passing leaders from throughout the world also referred to the Queen's peace but in an international sense. They cited her friendship and respect as both promoting and strengthening peace. Today on behalf of the Burdekin electorate, I want to extend my condolences to King Charles III and members of the Royal Family on the passing of Her Majesty.

As we have already heard, there are many members in this place whose electorates played host to Her Majesty. While the Burdekin electorate did not, there is a definite connection. In 1959 Queensland's, centenary year, Bowen in the Burdekin electorate, featured in Princess Alexandra's tour of the state, a tour planned with Her Majesty's blessing. It was a tour that featured 14 days in regional Queensland and of course a visit to the then Greenslopes repatriation hospital. I, like many others, believe that this tour symbolised that to Her Majesty it made no difference if you lived in the city or the regions and that there is no higher honour than to have served others. It is that service to others that embodied Her Majesty's reign. From leading her country and Commonwealth through war, chaos and a pandemic to serving as patron of more than 500 organisations in Britain alone, there are few who have ever, or will ever, provide service to so many for so long.

Among that long list of patronages there is one that is especially important in the Burdekin electorate. The Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme is one of those organisations. During Her Majesty's reign it went from an organisation that brought children from the outback to the coast for six weeks to an organisation that now provides health care in the remote communities those children live in. There are many in the Burdekin electorate who understand the challenges of accessing

health care. It is obvious that, especially when it comes to children, Her Majesty shared their concerns for in 1963 it was the Bush Children's Health Scheme that became the first Queensland based organisation to be granted royal assent. More recently BUSHkids, as it is now known, was fundamental in establishing the concept of e-kindy—services that today run in both Gumlu and Glenden in the Burdekin electorate.

There is no doubt that Her Majesty leaves a lasting legacy as a leader that embodied resilience, hope and goodwill. It is a legacy that millions around the world have benefited from and relied on in testing times. That lives on, as we have heard today, in hospitals, in courts of law and in my electorate in Dysart where the main street is known as Queen Elizabeth Drive. For the people of the Burdekin electorate, the legacy Her Majesty leaves is one of recognising the importance of people who live in regional Queensland. It is a legacy that acknowledges the importance of our future. It is a legacy we can all learn from and just one lesson from an inspiring life of service, sacrifice, humility, grace and generosity.

Rest in peace, Your Majesty. The people of the Burdekin electorate thank you for your service. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.29 am): For most citizens of the Commonwealth, their lives have known one constant: that Queen Elizabeth II was their monarch and that she was dedicated and genuine in her service to them. Whilst some citizens choose service through employment or volunteerism, Queen Elizabeth II had service imposed on her, and she inspired the world with the manner in which she wholeheartedly accepted and remained committed to that duty for 70 years. That longevity of service and loyalty to duty, her oath and her people is an insight into the extraordinary commitment of a most distinguished individual.

While she did not live in Queensland, she was well known to Queenslanders and well respected for her dedication to the people of Queensland, particularly in the efforts that she made to meet them and to be present as Queensland matured and changed. While our ancient land has only known the British monarchy for a relatively short time, it is a sign of the Queen's presence that she was the first serving monarch to visit Australia and Queensland and that she became a regular presence in the lives of our citizens.

While I was reflecting on this condolence motion I came across some words from one of our federal colleagues, Andrew Leigh. I thought it spoke to the change that happened during Her Majesty's reign. He related a story. On 14 February 1954 the new queen, Queen Elizabeth II, who was 27 years old, paid an unofficial visit to Old Parliament House. The Speaker, Archie Cameron, asked if she would like to see the House of Representatives, suggesting that it would be 'okay' because it was a Sunday and it was a long time since King Charles I. Queen Elizabeth said yes. The doors were unlocked and she spent seven minutes inside the House of Representatives, making her the first British monarch to enter the people's house for over 300 years.

Traditions can change and, while Queen Elizabeth was a constant throughout her reign, there was much change that happened in Queensland while she was our monarch. Often her visits to our great state coincided with those moments of great change—coincided with those celebrations of Queensland maturing and becoming a more progressive state. For instance, when she visited in 1963 she officially opened some oil infrastructure which helped open up exploration within the Surat Basin. She also visited surf lifesaving clubs not only in her role as patron of the Royal Life Saving Society but also to be an inspiration to those who served their community as volunteers.

In 1970 she visited many parts of our state—Longreach, Mount Isa, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Cooktown—showing her dedication to regional Queensland and Queenslanders throughout the entire state. In particular, she went to Longreach to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of Qantas, a great Queensland company and a company which, of course, helped Queensland mature. In 1977 she officially opened the QEII Jubilee Sports Centre. It marked the development of Brisbane into a world-class sports city. Only five years later she opened the Commonwealth Games—at that very same stadium—that put Queensland on the map. She returned in 1988 for Expo 88 and attended CHOGM in 2002.

Perhaps one of the most distinguished visits was when she returned to Queensland in 2011—not only to visit citizens but also to acknowledge that Queenslanders had been knocked down by natural disasters and had stood up again. She commented on the resilience of our citizens. Although she could not attend the Commonwealth Games in 2018, I know that Charles ably represented her and continued that inspiration of her service and dedication to others.

There are many things that you can say about a long reign. It is not just about longevity; it is about how you use it. The Queen's dedication to service and duty is an inspiration to others who also serve and take an oath of service, be it members of parliament, judges, governors or police officers. We thank the Queen for her service and we wish King Charles a long reign.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.34 am): The Mackay community was honoured twice with a visit from the Queen. The first was on 15 March 1954, when she visited Mackay. We still to this day celebrate the images of her in the back of a Land Rover at Mackay Showgrounds. The second was on 16 April 1970. My late grandmother recalled her visit. We still have photos amongst our family. The Queen, Prince Phillip and Princess Anne were welcomed by former Pioneer shire chairman Michael Moohin and his wife, Beryl, now part of the Mackay Regional Council.

More recently, the Queen had a significant influence on one of our Mackay locals, Keith Payne VC, who served in the Vietnam War. For over three hours amidst continuing enemy gunfire, Keith was searching for his men, rescuing 40 soldiers and helping a seriously wounded American. He received his VC from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* here in Brisbane on 13 April 1970. I recall sitting with him and Flo and Flo telling me how wonderful the Queen was and of the warm welcome she provided to her sons Ronald, Gregory, Colin, Ian and Derek, who were all in attendance for the ceremony. Keith was born in Ingham on 30 August 1933, and at the age of 89 he travelled to the Queen's funeral and service along with 17 of the 23 Victoria Cross recipients who were in attendance that day. We thank him for his service to our community. We acknowledge the many times that he has met the Queen, the way in which he conducts himself and the continuing contribution that he makes to returned service men and women across this country.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of the local Holy Trinity Church that on Sunday, 11 September held a solemn event in the Anglican tradition to honour the Queen, to share grief and thanks for her life and to pray for the King. His Majesty King Charles III, with his accession to the throne, is part of a continuing institution that forms an important role in our nation's democracy. We wish him well with his service.

Our Queen led with service and a stoic style. She is a true inspiration to many—an example of leadership and a woman of incredible character. We thank her for her service. She is now at rest with her strength and stay.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.37 am): I join with other members in this place in paying my respects in this motion of condolence. The death of any individual is a sad affair. In this case, the Queen was an individual who was very much in the public eye for all of her life—from the print age to the radio and television ages and, finally, the modern social media age. The Queen's death has impacted Queenslanders in many different ways. Everyone should have the choice to deal with this in their own way, but we should not let death define an individual. A person's life, meaning and place on this earth are much more than their final hours. This is the time to remember the Queen's life and how her life impacted Queenslanders.

For many rural and regional Queenslanders there is a fondness for the Queen, seen in the halls and town centres that still have her portrait hanging proudly on the wall and, for many, part of the oath that they swore to various offices and organisations and in loyalty toasts. Far too often, the memory of the Queen was for the messages of sympathy that were conveyed during times in which Queensland was impacted by drought, fire, floods or cyclones. The Queen had an understanding and appreciation of the devastations that were impacting everyday Queenslanders. The final visit of the Queen saw her take part in a reception in the aftermath of natural disasters. In many cases on her visits to Queensland over the decades, so many lined up to get a glimpse or to see a wave.

From the very beginning, Queensland's agriculture sector played a part. I am informed that the wedding present given by the people of Queensland back in 1947 was 500 cases of tinned pineapple. I understand that these were not kept but rather distributed to people who at the time were still on wartime-like rationing.

Some of the defining moments of Queensland, be it the 1982 Commonwealth Games or Expo 88, had a visit. For many it may have been a passing visit or even not remembered, and for many who have now moved to this state they may even be events upon which they do not form a memory. Now as a state and a member of the Commonwealth, we have a new king—a king who has a keen interest in the environment and what role that will have on our planet as well as agriculture and our oceans, with views expressed in 2008 no doubt felt by many in the agriculture sector when at the time he said—

Seasons are becoming earlier and growth patterns are altering. Disease-carrying insects are no longer being killed off over the winter. And on a global scale, weather patterns are changing, too.

In 2018 there was concern about the Great Barrier Reef and the need for action. There was a statement from him at that time—

I have no doubt in my mind that this will need to be a central aspect of the rapidly emerging concept of a sustainable 'blue economy', through which sustainable economic development is achieved via the wise use of ocean resources.

I had the good fortune to meet His Majesty in Mossman Gorge during his 2018 visit to Queensland for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. We discussed the reef then, including the impacts of sediment run-off and the expansion of efforts to repair that damage. I also had the opportunity to tell him about my previous career in the Transport Workers' Union. Following that, he referred to me as 'the chap who looks after those lorry drivers'. I look forward, as many do, for his next official visit to Queensland as King Charles III. For many Queenslanders, the Queen's passing was a final link to the 20th century. Queensland is a very different place now than it was in 1952. We mourn one's passing but also acknowledge the constant in many lives and the impact that one person can have. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.41 am): Thirteen years ago, like others in this House, I swore an oath of allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her heirs and successors to faithfully serve the people of Queensland. I therefore rise this morning to mourn the passing of our truly extraordinary monarch, but in doing so I also rise to affirm my loyalty to King Charles III and look forward to serving as a member of the Queensland parliament under his reign. I understand that not everyone remains comfortable that the Australian head of state resides in the United Kingdom, but I am supremely confident that all Queenslanders would agree that in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II we have been ruled by a truly wonderful and inspiring leader—steadfast, confident, dutiful, intelligent, wise, an example to all. As BBC correspondent Nicholas Witchell wrote, 'a constant amid gale-force changes'. But whilst being a constant and steadfast leader, Her Majesty not only embraced change; she was often at the forefront of it in her quiet, dignified but significant way. Just one example was when in 1945 she joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a mechanic. She was the first female member of the Royal Family to join the armed services as a full-time active member.

Her reign was also defined by her tours of the Commonwealth. As other members have already mentioned, Her Majesty visited Australia 16 times and Queensland eight times. I was working in the Premier's department when she opened CHOGM, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, at Coolum and a member of parliament when Her Majesty visited in 2011 to console those many Queenslanders who suffered through the floods of 2010 and 2011. Following her first visit to Australia in 1954 and her very grand tour, then prime minister Robert Menzies summarised the outpouring of emotion in the following way—

It is a basic truth that for our Queen we have within us, sometimes unrealised until the moment of expression, the most profound and passionate feelings of loyalty and devotion. It does not require much imagination to realise that when eight million people spontaneously pour out this feeling they are engaging in a great act of common allegiance and common joy which brings them closer together and is one of the most powerful elements converting them from a mass of individuals to a great cohesive nation. In brief, the common devotion to the Throne is a part of the very cement of the whole social structure.

Whilst our population and that of the broader Commonwealth has grown significantly since 1954, the explanation for the outpouring of grief at Her Majesty's passing could be explained in the very same way as then prime minister Menzies wrote.

I had the honour of attending Government House to convey the condolences of the people of the Glass House electorate. I was joined by year 10 Maleny State High School student and work experience student who was serving with me at the time Kelly Schofield as well as her mother, Sharon—possibly my electorate's most devoted royalist. Kelly already held a deep respect for Her Majesty and I personally could not think of a better example of servant leadership for Kelly to follow. It is certainly an example that I have sought to follow, so let me conclude with the words I wrote in the official condolence book—

Your Majesty, as someone who strives to serve the public in my role as a member of parliament, your example has been extraordinary. Your service to your realm, Commonwealth, country and family has been exemplary. You have conveyed yourself with a calmness, assuredness, strength and wit that has inspired us all. Thank you for your service. Rest in peace with those you love. You have deserved it.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.45 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the condolence motion. Firstly, I want to begin by acknowledging the recent sorry business of those connected to Queen Elizabeth II. I know that there are many in this place and in our community who have a deep connection to their English ancestry or have wonderful memories of the Queen, and for them this remains a very sad time. Sorry business in my culture and in other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures is filled

with many protocols and practices, many of which are ancient and not necessarily known to the broader community. As the longest continuous living cultures on the planet, it is these very protocols that reflect the ancient connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to these lands we collectively now call Australia.

Witnessing the many protocols surrounding Queen Elizabeth's passing, some of which were unknown to many of us before now, I can understand her connection to the history of her country, her position in the story of her homelands and her place in the global history books, but it did leave me, like many First Nations peoples in this country, with a mixture of feelings and thoughts. Respectfully, I did not grow up in a household that reflected all that much on the Queen of England. I do not remember there being many conversations about the English monarchy or Queen Elizabeth's role in our country. She did not feature much in the stories that were told on the never ceded sovereign lands of my people, the Quandamooka people, and, to be honest, apart from commentary surrounding the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982, the Princess Diana era and the institutional structures of my role in this place, I did not pay that much attention to the role of the British monarchy.

My first ever memory of the Queen was a picture that hung in the corner of my classroom at Woodridge State School in the mid-1970s and a song called *God Save the Queen* that we were required to stand up for every morning which was followed by the Lord's Prayer. That routine was short-lived and completely contained to my school experience, but it formed the beginning of my knowledge of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queensland curriculum was where I learnt about Queen Elizabeth II, the history of the English monarchy and the many countries invaded and colonised by the British Empire over centuries to form the Commonwealth. It was clear from this information that the Queen very much dedicated herself to the role that she was born into. Seventy years on the English throne is an incredible achievement and a true reflection of her sense of duty and public service, which I acknowledge.

Queen Elizabeth II would have seen many things in her time on the English throne. She witnessed many changes in her country as it moved toward the multicultural society it is today. In 1967 she saw a referendum in Australia that ensured Aboriginal people were counted as human beings for the first time since invasion. In 1992 she saw a landmark decision of the High Court of Australia recognise the precolonial property rights of First Nations peoples, effectively overturning the declaration of *terra nullius*. In 2008 she saw the then Australian prime minister deliver a national apology to Indigenous Australians, particularly the stolen generations for the profoundly negative impact of past laws and policies, and she saw much change right across the Commonwealth. Significantly, there were dozens of nations that exited the Commonwealth during her reign, the most recent being Barbados just last year. I imagine that as each country made its case to exit the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II would have witnessed the people of those nations grapple with the truth of their shared history—the often uncomfortable, sometimes quite ugly and shameful truths that came about as a result of historic invasion and colonisation.

When Barbados officially became a republic after nearly 400 years of British rule, Queen Elizabeth II wrote, 'As you celebrate this momentous day, I send you and all Barbadians my warmest good wishes for your happiness, peace and prosperity in the future.' The now King Charles III was present in Barbados on that historic day to mark their exit from the Commonwealth and to celebrate their independence.

It is often the elders of our communities who have the ability to look back on history, to prepare the path for the future and, on their passing, open the door for the next generations to navigate our progress as nations and as people. With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the new King has the opportunity to cast new eyes over who we are, where we have come from and how we can coexist together into the future. I acknowledge the life and legacy of Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of my electorate and wish King Charles III all he needs to establish his own legacy.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.50 am): A lifetime of service to others, the embodiment of grace under pressure, the spirit of perseverance honed through the terror of World War II when people looked to their leaders for courage and inspiration to overcome the face of terror and fear. While still a child at the start of the war, Elizabeth, who would become our Queen, learned from her parents' example about the need to be right there with the people through these times of great terror and then, as she became older during those war years, contributing directly to the war effort as a mechanic in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

Queen Elizabeth was enduring but also evolving. As the longest ever reigning British monarch with 70 years of service, she was the most powerful and influential woman leader our world has ever seen. As a constitutional monarch, the power of her reign was not with military might, it was not with

political power, but the influence of her character and unwavering commitment to keep her promise that her life, no matter whether short or long, would be dedicated to the service of others. I honour her life of service and her example.

There is a saying, which is relevant to all of us, that with privilege comes responsibility. In her case there was great privilege. Though she was not born to be Queen, with that subsequently becoming her destiny she undertook extraordinary responsibility which I think is hard for any of us here to actually imagine. Our time of formal service as elected members of parliament is something we choose and how we do it is certainly our choice. We may continue to serve, I hope, when our time here finishes in this House, and we have seen that with many who do it without titles or roles. Queen Elizabeth took on her role with great seriousness and responsibility and fulfilled it with diligence, honour and love.

During her seventy years as the longest serving monarch, Queen Elizabeth saw times of great change with the evolution of the empire to the Commonwealth. She was not born to be Queen. Her father was the spare and not the heir. As a point of interest, her uncle, known to the family as David, who was the Prince of Wales and future King Edward, visited Queensland in 1920. He visited this parliament and stayed in what is now the Speaker's office. He literally stayed in this parliament. As the future King it caused a buzz here in Queensland. Even those diehard republicans rolled out to welcome the future King. At that time he had a travelling companion, also a fellow descendent of Queen Victoria, Louis Mountbatten, who also stayed here in the parliament.

Things played out differently than the people in the 1920s thought. In 1920 the Prince of Wales gifted a silver loving-cup to this parliament. But the actual cup of office was too weighty for him and a few years later he abdicated and the crown passed to King George, his younger brother and father of Princess Elizabeth. In 1952, decades after her uncle's shock abdication and upon the sudden death of her father, Elizabeth, at the tender age of 25, became Queen. By her side was her loving husband Prince Philip, also a descendant of Queen Victoria and, by the way, the nephew of Louis Mountbatten. There are interesting strands of history that tie us to this physical place. Prince Philip, a war veteran and military man, also understood service and dedicated his life to supporting his wife and Queen, as well as using his position to help thousands of young people through the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and many other noble causes and, as we know, significant environmental movements.

Together, the Queen and her late husband recognised that their positions were there to leave a legacy of good. There has been an evolution from the divine rights of kings and queens hundreds of years ago to a constitutional monarchy. I wish to acknowledge and express my condolences to the Queen's family and to all those who lovingly expressed their support for the legacy that she has left for our nation and for the world.

 Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.56 am): I rise to speak on behalf of my community to express our deep sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our condolences to her grieving family, our thanks to her for her 70 years of devoted services and our best wishes to King Charles III. In the weeks following the death of Queen Elizabeth, I, like I am sure all in this chamber, heard from many people from my community expressions of respect, grief, admiration, regard, gratitude, fondness, but across all of those sentiments a recognition of the magnitude of her tenure and that it was part of our history that will always be seen as remarkable.

I very much regard my opportunity to speak today on this condolence motion as an opportunity for people from my community to speak, which is why I have gone out to them and asked them to tell me what they would like me to say. I have been overwhelmed by the response. In fact, reading some of the messages brought a tear to my eye. Unfortunately I will not be able to convey every single word that has come in because there were so many messages. However, I hope I do justice to the contributions by the following. Representatives from important local groups like the Bulimba District RSL Sub-Branch, the Bulimba District Historical Society and the Morningside Scouts asked to formally pass on their condolences. Many people—Judith John, Susanna Free, Brian Barker, Cherice Cleasby, Linda Hanson, Merle Saber, Annemarie Newton, June Hale, Nicola Krokowski, Angela Hawes, Trisha Cook, Nadia Grant, Patricia Pledger, Tony Rigby, Julie Didlick and Liz Kerwick—talked of her unflinching dedication to service, her ability to adapt to changing times, her grace and her work ethic. They talked about her sense of fun—James Bond and Paddington Bear was mentioned several times. They talked about her bright clothes. Young people, like Chris Love, talked about what it meant to him as a young person to see somebody at such a young age take on the role of leadership and show us all about serving without self-interest.

Many had personal recollections of seeing the Queen when she was in Australia, reflecting on her absolute dedication to making sure she was a physical presence in our lives. Diane Hill remembers having the day off from school in Townsville when the Queen's motorcade came down the main street and she remembers the Queen looking so happy. Peggy Vlismas remembers her dad being in the Northern Command Band at Duntroon when the Queen visited. Sam Hall remembers driving on the Gateway Bridge when the traffic stopped and slowed to escort the Queen's motorcade. He saw a mint-clad arm raised in a wave that he liked to think was just for him. Barry Thiess remembers being with his fellow students at Ironside State School to wave and welcome Her Majesty on her visit to Queensland 80 years ago.

Many people commented on the role model that Her Majesty was as a woman. Angi Bissell said—

... I am very fortunate to have grown up in an era like no other, to see an incredible female role model lead with compassion even when the most private parts of your life are exposed for others to see and judge ...

Helen Dow said 'she was a leader at a time when we saw no women of power anywhere'. Julie Sterritt said—

... at a time when women did not always get to speak, she spoke on behalf of many and did so even up until her last days. A working woman and a mother we will always remember.

Penny Floyd, Stephanie Adamson and Helen Spindler expressed the same sentiments.

Much has been said about the Queen's wonderful service. A number of people from our community acknowledged the impact of colonisation on First Nations people. I want to thank Bobby Moon from Norman Park for talking so graciously in his message to me. He said that he believed that recognition of and condolences for the Queen and the wonderful service that she gave can occur at the same time as recognising the feelings that many First Nations people may feel at her passing.

On behalf of my community, I thank the Queen for the wonderful role model that she has been to all of us. I thank her for her service and pass on our best wishes to her loving family.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.01 am): It was as much a Christmas dinner tradition as having pudding and custard: like many in this chamber, at around 7.30 pm, along with the rest of the family, we would find a comfortable chair or place to sit and watch the Queen's message. In fact, that became a much liked tradition on Christmas night for my family and many others around the nation. Her Majesty's address tended to become a snapshot of the times within which we lived. Rather naively, over the decades one became so accustomed to it that you would simply believe that this remarkable woman would be around forever.

I am very honoured to make a contribution to this condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II. Some quotes are etched in time. As a young woman ascending to her role as Queen, she delivered a memorable line that has already been used often in the chamber today. That line has stood the test of time. She said—

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service...

Reflecting on those words decades later, during her silver jubilee in 1977 she declared—

Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.

In 2010 she surpassed Queen Victoria to become the longest reigning monarch in British history. For seven long decades her declaration to public service lasted, right up until just before her passing. The image of the Queen, only a couple of days before her passing, receiving the new British Prime Minister, Liz Truss MP, was truly remarkable. As a keen student of history, what I find even more remarkable is that her reign spanned 15 British prime ministers, starting with Winston Churchill, who was born in 1874, and including Ms Truss, who was born 101 years later in 1975. During her extraordinary reign, Queen Elizabeth II met 16 different Australian prime ministers, 13 different US presidents and five popes.

Her Majesty the Queen was stoic and had a prodigious work ethic when it came to fulfilling her public duties. Incredibly, at the age of 92 she attended over 270 official events during the preceding year. I still find that remarkable. She was 92.

The day after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I wrote that she set the gold standard in public service and that the world seemed a little different today. For most of us in this hallowed chamber, the Queen was an ever-present symbol of stability in an ever-changing world. Like other members in the chamber, I was extremely honoured to attend Government House and sign a

condolence parchment on behalf of the constituents of Chatsworth. I take this opportunity to thank the late Queen Elizabeth II for her outstanding level of devotion to public service on behalf of the constituents I am so honoured to represent, the people of the Chatsworth community.

As was customary with each of my address-in-reply speeches, in which I would always reaffirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, now I affirm my allegiance to the new king, King Charles III. As a very small act to acknowledge Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of outstanding devotion to public service, I place my Queensland member of parliament lapel pin on the desk for 24 hours. If I was to leave it here for the next 70 days to symbolically represent one day for every year of her outstanding service and devotion, I would not collect that lapel pin until 20 December this year. Seventy years of unstinting and stoic public service is amazing.

I express my sincere condolences on the passing of this remarkable woman, Her Majesty. May she rest in peace. Vale. My closing remarks are simply: God save the King.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.05 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II. Her death last month has meant so much more to so many more people than many of us were expecting. She was the head of the monarchy for 70 years, which is an incredibly long period of service as I am sure everyone in this House will agree. During that time she was no stranger to Queensland and, indeed, no stranger to Townsville. In fact, in 1970 she gave royal assent to the bill granting autonomy to James Cook University, establishing JCU as its own entity. At that time it was hard to imagine that JCU would turn into the amazing world-class tertiary institution that we know today. James Cook University is a world renowned place of study for people from not only Townsville and North Queensland but also right around the world, particularly in relation to marine biology and the Great Barrier Reef. It is amazing to think that it was Queen Elizabeth II who officially made JCU what it is today. Prior to that time, the institution was an annex of the University of Queensland.

During that trip to Townsville in 1970, the Queen also attended the Cavalcade of Progress at the Townsville Sports Reserve. At the time it was reported by the *Townsville Bulletin*—which, believe it or not, was a broadsheet in those days—that crowds 10 to 12 deep lined the route from the port, along the Strand to the Sports Reserve for the royal progress and welcoming speeches. The *Townsville Bulletin* estimated there were 17,000 people in the streets for that event. That is an incredible number of people. It goes to show the impact that Queen Elizabeth II had for a long time and will, of course, continue to have into the future.

As Queen, Her Majesty visited Queensland eight times. She was loved and respected. She represented all that was dignified and positive in the Royal Family. In the aftermath of natural disasters, which sadly Queensland is no stranger to and it looks like we will know again in the future, she provided reassurance to many people. During her first visit to Townsville in 1954 with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, some people were prevented from attending because of floods in the region. In fact, Queen Elizabeth II said, and I thank the Parliamentary Library Services for this quote—

I thank you warmly for the kind and sincere welcome which you have given to my husband and myself on this our first visit to Townsville. I was deeply distressed to hear of the damage done by the recent floods to the area and I send my sympathy to all who have suffered. Please give my good wishes to all who were to have been here today, but have been unable to do so.

While those may only be words on a piece of paper, spoken 68 years ago, I am sure that for the reported 50,000 people in Townsville on that day they were really important. Similarly, on her final visit to Queensland in October 2011 she paid tribute to the resilience and character of Queenslanders in the aftermath of the floods and Cyclone Yasi, which affected so many people in North Queensland. The Queen devoted her life to duty and will never be forgotten for what she was able to do not only for Queensland but also for so many in countries throughout the world.

Like the member for Kawana, I had the opportunity of meeting the now King Charles at the Governor's House. I was introduced as the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Queensland. His Royal Highness said to me, 'How are you going keeping those rascallions in check?' He was not speaking about our side of course, but he took me by a little surprise. I did have a response. I said, 'Your Highness, it is always a challenge!'

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (11.09 am): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Few, if any, deaths in human history have been felt as widely or as deeply across the world. This is certainly an important moment to mark in history. While her passing occurs after a very long and full life, it has left many with a real sense of sadness across the world, the Commonwealth, Australia and of course North Queensland in the small part of the world that

I represent. Her Majesty being born in 1926 and ascending to the throne in 1952 left that legacy of dutifully serving for 70 years. That is something really significant to focus on, despite interpretations of the Crown, the Royals and the significance of that. Anyone in this modern age who occupies an office with dignity and with what would appear a real competency over that period and who dedicates themselves to a pursuit for that long and under that intense scrutiny is to be remembered and admired.

She embodied many of the personal and professional virtues that seem to be slipping away in modern times in terms of committing to that life purpose and vocation whether willing or not. She had a strong and unwavering sense of duty and responsibility to others—a hallmark, a modesty of demeanour, graciousness, civility, prudence and fortitude. There are many events and challenges that could have broken the Queen's spirit over the years, and they did not. We all have something to learn from her strength and grace.

I make mention of the occasion in 1970 when as part of a royal tour to Australia Her Majesty the Queen and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh visited Mount Isa. This speaks to that area that I really respect of the Queen in terms of her tenure. They were guests of Mount Isa Mines and stayed at Case Grande, the big grand house on the hill at the Mount Isa mine site. While in town they visited the Mount Isa Royal Flying Doctor Service base, toured the Buckley Avenue flats and the mine flats and met more than 6,000 children—some travelled from as far as Burketown and Birdsville to be there. The Queen also presented sports trophies at Mount Isa Mines Primary School. More than 17,000 people—that is a big number for Mount Isa—attended the mini rodeo held on 15 April 1970. The Duke is reported to have hardly taken his eyes from his binoculars while watching the action. I am sure that in that arid landscape watching the bull riding and bronc riding it would have been a spectacle for them to see. I suppose it was pretty different to the polo matches on green turf that they watch in England.

Personally, I recall that Paddy Cusack was one of the riders at that rodeo. He was the first Australian stockman. I am friends with his grandchildren and, I could say, his children. I know his children who are aged in years now. Old Paddy used to say how proud he was to have ridden in front of the Queen. My grandfather played a role in giving him that opportunity. They said, 'We are just always so grateful your grandfather gave Paddy the opportunity to ride in front of the Queen. It was one of the things he remembered so much in life.' I had a very similar experience only a few weeks ago with the late Teddy Lane, a bronc rider as well. His daughter Beverly Wardrop from Cloncurry said, 'You know, Robbie, that time he rode in front of the Queen? What a wonderful experience it was, another first for an Australian stockman there.' I think that shows the link to where we are now in terms of having the monarch there as someone to look up to. That sort of speaks to the significance it played in people's lives for which we are grateful.

The people of Mount Isa loved having the Queen there as did the people of Australia. I pass on my condolences from the people of Traeger. Her Majesty's family must have felt the loss very deeply. We welcome new King Charles to the throne. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Ms RICHARDS (Redlands—ALP) (11.14 am):** I rise to support the condolence motion. Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was much loved and respected by people around the world. As others have expressed, it was with a sense of disbelief that we woke on the morning of 8 September to hear of her passing. Throughout her life she captured the imagination of people across the globe. She was a constant and reassuring presence across her 70 years as reigning monarch. Her life of service stretched beyond most of our living memories. It is an achievement we most likely will not see again in our lifetimes. Her Majesty set an example of selfless duty, grace, compassion and dignity throughout her entire life, all valuable qualities that we all can take great lessons from.

The Queen acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 after the death of her father King George VI. Her coronation took place in 1953 when she was only 27 years old. As the member for Kawana quite rightly pointed out, in Cape Town on her 21st birthday in her Royal Pledge she declared that for her whole life, whether long or short, she would be devoted to the service of the people. I think that that has been exemplified across the 70 years of her reign.

Through good and bad times Queen Elizabeth provided the Commonwealth with stability and strength. Throughout her life she visited more than 100 countries and touched the lives of millions around the world. She was a unifying presence to the Commonwealth. She first visited Australia as the first reigning monarch to visit Australia in 1954. We know that she visited Australia on 16 occasions and visited Queensland on eight of those: in 1977 for her Silver Jubilee; in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games; in 1988 for the Bicentennial and Expo 88; and of course her last visit in 2011 where she showed her deep support for Queenslanders and their resilience throughout the floods. I know that her visits made a great impact.

I am very fortunate to have at home a memento from her 1954 visit. At that time my dad was at Melbourne High School. Every student was offered a little pin, which I forgot to bring—I was going to bring it with me but left home without it—that commemorated her visit. I do a lot of visits to constituents in my electorate to celebrate their 100th birthday. What they point out to me is the card from the Queen that holds pride and place on their mantle. Across Queensland and Australia, her impact and her affinity with people turning 100 is absolutely amazing.

As the longest reigning monarch, she was the very spirit of service. That spirit and her legacy will continue to endure. I congratulate King Charles on his accession, as many have noted in here. He has had the most incredible apprenticeship in leading up to becoming the reigning monarch. It is an extraordinary achievement to have presided with such dignity and grace for 70 years. I remember and honour her affection for our country and her grace and kindness to the people of Australia and Queensland. Vale, Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.18 am): The passing of Queen Elizabeth II is a sorrowful moment and one that has brought great sadness to so many. It was a day many of us simply did not believe would arrive, but tragically it did. Her Majesty was more than a monarch; she defined an era. Our world is one of continual changes yet she remained a constant presence. To so many, Her Majesty was a source of comfort and a face of stability. Nearly 90 per cent of Australians have only ever known one monarch in their lifetimes. The Queen's reign spanned 16 Australian prime ministers—starting with Sir Robert Menzies—16 governors-general—starting with Sir William John McKell—and included 16 visits to Australia. Think of the weight cast on her shoulders in 1952 at the tender age of 25 years young. A reign of 70 years and 214 days must rightly be admired.

The final years of her reign may have been some of the toughest. She kept her people together through a pandemic and reminded us that 'while we may have more still to endure, better days will return'. For seven decades she gave ceaseless public service to the people of the Commonwealth. She has seen communism rise and fall, wars won and lost, leaders come and go, despots stand up and be overthrown, the best and the worst of society.

She has been a voice and a figurehead of our time. She has been a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother of sorts to many the world over. Lest we never forget that she was in fact a mother to four, grandmother to eight and great-grandmother to 12. Her Majesty not only performed the role of monarch with grace and diplomacy, but she was also a working mother. As shadow minister for women, I can only applaud the way she dutifully fulfilled her responsibilities whilst caring for four children. There is no denying that it must have been quite the balancing act trying to juggle motherhood with royal duty over so many decades—a constant battle between her personal responsibilities and her role as Queen.

As possibly the most famous working mother in the world, she upheld traditions while embodying change. As a young woman she worked as a motor mechanic with the military during World War II. She so often proved to be a woman of many talents. On her 21st birthday she made the following pledge—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

She was true to her word to her final breath. I still remember so vividly as a little girl singing *God Save the Queen* every morning in assembly at school.

We have lost one of the most meaningful world figures of our lifetime and I take this moment to say thank you for everything. I also take the opportunity to confirm my allegiance to King Charles III. God save the King.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.21 am): I rise to offer my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. In 2002 the Queen said—

Change has become a constant; managing it has become an expanding discipline. The way we embrace it defines our future.

Those words were emblematic of our complex times—the Queen's own presence was perhaps the only constant in her 70-year reign. That reign began in a time of transformative change; when a postwar world began to question the assumptions of the past and rigid class, gender and race divides ever so slowly began to unravel. That is work that we continue in this parliament today.

Many Queenslanders I think have a nuanced relationship with the monarchy, while retaining a deep appreciation for the long, dedicated and dignified personal service of the Queen. My own family history embodies that nuance. My father was two years old when Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne, born to British parents who fled the cold and scarcity of Britain after World War II. My grandfather Denny fought in World War II, but motivated by his hatred of fascism rather than love of his sovereign.

Enthusiastic about their new lives in what they persisted in calling the colonies, my grandparents never relinquished their British citizenship. My grandfather was an avowed republican, yet after his death I was surprised to find in his effects an invitation accepted to attend one of the Queen's famous garden parties on a visit to England in the 1990s.

That nuanced relationship to the crown—and that affection for the Queen and appreciation for her service—was evident in many of our responses to the news of her death. Change may be constant, but for many in our Pumicestone community, and especially our many, many British migrants, Her Majesty represented comforting continuity. People told me that they were profoundly shocked by their own sense of loss at her passing however unsurprising it may have been. Many asked me to arrange a site where they could lay flowers in her memory, and I am grateful to the Bribie Island Lions for offering their memorial gardens for this purpose. Others shared the sentiments of Pumicestone community member Christine Lewis, herself a woman of dedicated service—

While I am in favour of an Australian Republic, I have so much admiration and respect for Queen Elizabeth II and the dedication she has given to her reign ... and I feel her passing deeply.

As we commemorate Her Majesty's life of service, I also acknowledge the pain that many First Nations people have expressed since her death. The member for Algester often speaks of our uncomfortable shared history and the need for truth telling to shine light on those dark chapters so we can walk together for reconciliation. I have been disappointed by the condemnation of First Nations people for speaking their truth about the role of the crown, if not the Queen, in colonisation and dispossession.

For some Queenslanders the crown and the Queen represented continuity and connection—a promise made for life and faithfully kept. For others, the Queen represented imperial power with all its painful legacies. The reality is that both can be true, both are true. We need to be robust enough to have these difficult conversations with respect for each other. We need maturity and grace to hear those different points of view and understand what they mean. I believe Australians, and especially Queenslanders, are up to the job. I believe the Queen, who presided over the Commonwealth with grace and acceptance even as over half its countries moved on from their direct constitutional relationship with the British Crown, would have been up to the job.

On behalf of the Pumicestone electorate, I offer our condolences on the death of Her Majesty and congratulate King Charles III on his accession. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (11.25 am): I rise to speak in the condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen was an extraordinary woman who never put a foot wrong. With her death the world has lost a tower of strength and dignity. We have lost a living link with history, a proudly committed Christian, a constitutional monarch and someone who lived a life of old-fashioned virtues and followed traditional values.

The Queen's remarkable life was one of unselfish service. Her dedication was the hallmark of an historic seven-decade reign. As society changed over that 70 years, her personal virtues were the antithesis of what our modern culture has become. The descriptions of calm, decent, stoic, thrifty, fun, disarming, steadfast, duty, continuity and commitment contrast with the modern world of celebrity defined by insolence, indulgence and vapid self-obsession.

Much of modern culture is an artificial environment, riddled with incessant messaging of acting out, self-promotion, self-centeredness and fickleness where any level of behaviour is accepted. Influencers and celebrities are praised as role models and virtue is earned by tokenistic gestures and public commitments to acceptable causes. Yet, last month we witnessed a worldwide outpouring of praise for the Queen's traditional virtues of responsibility, prudence, fortitude, self-containment, reserve, modesty and civility.

She was an openly committed Christian who saw Christ as 'an inspiration and an anchor in my life'. She was serious about being the defender of the faith. When commemorating the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth she said—

For me the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life.

It seems the Queen represented what many people still value and what many yearn for. When she made the commitment on her 21st birthday that 'my whole life be it long or short shall be devoted to your service' she meant it. She kept her oath before God to serve for life and set out to earn respect through simple duty. Queen Elizabeth represented the continuous thread we have with centuries of history, traditions, culture and values which has influenced our type of government, our laws, our democracy, our way of life and our institutions.

When I was 11 my mother took me and my sister to England to visit my grandparents. As a child from the bush, the back of nowhere, I recall the wonder from visits to places and seeing symbols and regalia which define that history—seeing the Crown Jewels, the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and watching the Changing of the Guard. Queen Elizabeth was formed in that epic age of 1939 to 1945 during the fight for civilisation. She was not only the last great living link with that period she knew those who reshaped the world afterwards. She knew leaders from Churchill, de Gaulle, Menzies, Nehru, Konrad, Eisenhower and Kennedy to Reagan, Thatcher, Gorbachev, and Deng.

Distance and isolation are part of Australia and are pivotal forces which have influenced our history, national identity and future. Australia may have been shaped and guided by ‘the tyranny of distance’, yet Queen Elizabeth never let that overshadow her knowledge and deep interest in our country and in Australians. She never took her role for granted and was well aware of the fate of her relatives and forebears.

As a ceremonial head of state, she was non-partisan, non-committal, rose above the political fray and imparted wisdom. As the very model of a constitutional monarch, she was able to achieve her enduring legacy of turning what was once a multiracial empire into a voluntary Commonwealth of free nations. She was not seduced by the obsession with silly navel-gazing, short-term fame, grandstanding, shallow virtue signalling, narcissistic politics from the personal offence industry and shrill activism which requires token gestures to make people feel righteous and pure.

Her enduring legacy is the reinforced strength she gave to our constitutional monarchy and representative democracy where parliament, elected by the people, does the governing. There is not a political system which is better. It provides unity over political partisanship. The alternative would be a hollow creation of elections or appointments subject to slick PR image management and popularity, which transfers unfettered power to the political class, apparatchiks, hangers-on and elites.

Queen Elizabeth gave us so much better, and her warning in 1957 that ‘trouble is caused by unthinking people who carelessly throw away ageless ideals as if they were old and outworn machinery’ is just as important today. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.30 am): I rise to speak to the condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II. We have heard almost every previous contribution reflect that Queen Elizabeth was tireless in her work output, working until just a few days publicly before her passing.

She was just a young woman, fairly newly married, when she came to be Queen and, as the first modern female in the role of monarch, she could not help but impact on how we saw women’s roles in society. She has inspired, both directly and indirectly, women across the globe, and one of those is one of my wonderful local volunteers Kate Blomer, who I think, not unlike the Queen, performs public service with a quiet dignity. Kate is a very fond monarchist and she has provided her reflections to me and I want to begin with those. She says—

I feel very honoured to have been asked to provide my thoughts and feelings on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. She was a truly remarkable woman who witnessed amazing historical events and changes in the world. It is incredible to think about the many world leaders she met and interacted with during her 70 years as our monarch.

Kate’s father was born and raised in Scotland before becoming a journalist. He witnessed and reported on many major political changes to the African continent during the early years of her reign before Kate’s family settled in Australia. As a result, Kate grew up in a household where the Royal Family were revered and respected. To Kate she was more than the Queen of England. Kate reflected, ‘She was our Queen and my Queen as well.’ As Kate’s youngest son said to her when she was writing her reflections—and she said he is not really a royalist—she was a Queen of the people. Kate continues—

Her devotion to serving her people was unwavering. This included meeting with the last of many English Prime Ministers she saw come and go in her lifetime, in her final days. She retained her sense of duty to the end.

On waking up to the news of the Queen’s passing, those last photos released of her at Balmoral filled Kate with sadness and a genuine feeling of loss. Kate finishes—

She reigned with such grace and dignity. May she truly rest in peace beside her beloved family members. I think she will be greatly missed by many, myself included.

As Kate said, the Queen was a remarkable woman. She certainly never declared herself a feminist. However, as I said, in a public-facing role, especially one as important as a monarch, she could not help but set an example for women whether or not that was ever her intention. Indeed, one

person she inspired was a young Margaret Thatcher, who took great heart as a young woman that having a female monarch—a Queen—would lead to the removal of barriers for women in all walks of life. I quote from an article that Margaret wrote many years before she became prime minister. She said—

If as many earnestly pray, the accession of Elizabeth II can help to remove the last shreds of prejudice against women aspiring to the highest places, then a new era for women will indeed be at hand. Margaret Thatcher, who was then a young candidate attempting to break into politics, wrote in a column shortly after Elizabeth became queen in February 1952. “That there is a place for women at the top of the tree has been proved beyond question.”

“To sum up,” Thatcher concluded, “I should like to see the woman with a career holding down her responsibility with easy assurance during the Elizabethan era.”

Later in her time as Queen, Elizabeth began to be more expansive in her comments about women’s rights and gender equity. Perhaps the closest the Queen ever came to a public statement about women’s rights or gender equality was at a 2011 British Commonwealth summit here in Australia, where the theme was ‘Women as agents of change’. The Queen said, ‘It reminds us of the potential in our societies that is yet to be fully unlocked, and encourages us to find ways to allow girls and women to play their full part.’

While it would be incorrect to necessarily label Queen Elizabeth II a feminist, it can never be doubted that simply by being in her role as a female monarch she played a key role in normalising women in the workplace and in public-facing roles right throughout the world. For that, I will always be grateful. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (11.35 am): In 1947, five years before Her Majesty’s accession, she uttered the immortal words, as oft quoted today—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.

Never have truer words been spoken. The Queen reigned 70 years, seven months and two days—the longest in British history. The curtain has now been drawn on the second Elizabethan age. The glories of Queen Elizabeth I were romanticised by the English for centuries. The men of the Long Parliament considered themselves as reincarnated Elizabethans—even Cromwell himself. Cromwell’s mother, his wife and his favourite daughter were all called Elizabeth. He constantly referred to Elizabeth of ‘famous memory’ and he saw himself, in power, in some sense as her rightful successor.

I have no doubt that the second Elizabethan age will be remembered with as much affection, and for as long, as the first. Queen Elizabeth II gave assent to more than 4,000 acts of parliament, appointed no less than 15 British prime ministers—the last in her final hours. Buckingham Palace stated in 2016 she had travelled over 1,661,668 kilometres to 117 nations.

In amongst all the words of her service, family, love of the outdoors, corgis and horses, very little has been said of her faith. She inherited religious responsibilities as the Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England—titles vested in the reigning British monarch since Henry VIII renounced the papacy in 1534. But it ran deeper than words and history.

In the Queen’s first address, she requested prayer for her upcoming coronation, and it was a multifaith request: ‘I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day.’ The Queen’s faith was personal, private and inclusive. The Queen regularly encouraged religious diversity and tolerance in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth of Nations and across the globe. In the year of the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the Queen noted at a multifaith reception—

Faith plays a key role in the identity of millions of people, providing not only a system of belief but also a sense of belonging. It can act as a spur for social action. Indeed, religious groups have a proud track record of helping those in the greatest need including the sick, the elderly, the lonely and the disadvantaged. They remind us of the responsibilities we have beyond ourselves.

Wise words indeed for our troubled times.

The Queen was beloved by Queenslanders across the decades. Sir Joh even submitted a popular petition to London requesting the right to proclaim the monarch ‘Queen of Queensland’. My understanding is that Her Majesty was never referred the petition.

The Queen and Prince Philip visited the Toowoomba region in March 1954. The run sheet of the day noted that the royal couple would ‘slow down’ in Oakey between 2.47 pm and 2.55 pm. In those eight minutes on Campbell Street, my father was there with his family. Incidentally, my mother’s family were there too, although my mother had not yet been born. They were cheering and waving flags as the royal couple passed on their way to Toowoomba.

Perhaps the crystal clarity of my father's memory explains the enduring appeal of the monarchy. The free offering of allegiance to an hereditary authority who lives across the world is an intellectual curiosity. British political author Ian Gilmour has noted that 'modern societies still need myth and ritual' and that a monarch and his or her family are well placed to supply it.

Although his view was perhaps a little jaundiced by Queen Victoria's enthusiasm for political interference, Walter Badgehot opined that—

So as long as the human heart is strong and the human reason weak, royalty will be strong because it appeals to diffuse feeling, and republics weak because they appeal to the understanding.

Perhaps the appeal of the monarchy is simply that it is set apart from politicians with all of our striving, self-obsession and compromise. People think of kings and queens who wield their power loudly, but Her Majesty was just the opposite. She exercised her power quietly, fighting the good fight, finishing the race and keeping the faith. The Queen is dead. Long live the King.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (11.40 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion moved by the Premier on the death of Queen Elizabeth II. I join with members of the House to offer my condolences first and foremost to her family. Whenever we have a motion of condolence in this place we try to recognise the families who feel the loss most immediately. In this case, of course, the Queen's family has also endured that in the public eye, all the while continuing their public service. While this motion goes to the public service of Her Majesty in her constitutional role, I particularly want to recognise the personal elements of these times. These times are, of course, unprecedented in the lifetime of every member of this House. Queen Elizabeth has been a staple in our public awareness for all of our lifetime.

I should declare, as I have on my member's register of interests, that I am a long-time member of the Australian Republican Movement. With a name like Jimmy Sullivan, I am sure that surprises nobody. Just as with condolence motions for former members of this House across the political divide, we can acknowledge differences in beliefs or values coming from different cultural and democratic traditions yet sincerely acknowledge others' public service, and so it is with the Queen's 70 years of public service. I think we can all learn something from that.

As the member for Stafford I am very proud to represent the Prince Charles Hospital, an icon on the north side. As the health minister has already reflected this morning, the Prince Charles Hospital was originally established as a dedicated chest hospital with a focus on tuberculosis. Over time it has transitioned from a nation-leading hospital in heart and lung transplants to a general hospital with an emergency department, mental health services and now even a specialist paediatric emergency department. I talk about the Prince Charles Hospital frequently in this House, and I speak with staff and patients of the Prince Charles Hospital locally on a very regular basis.

As we speak of the hospital locally and in this House we are reminded of our past history and the ability of institutions to reform and transition. As it is with the institution of the Prince Charles Hospital so it is with other institutions, including this parliament. I note that this government is progressing a path to treaty, and I am proud to be part of a government prepared to talk about history—even uncomfortable history—truth and reconciliation. Both in this chamber and in the community I am proud to play a part in that pursuit.

As I reflect on the life of the Queen and the extraordinary changes she witnessed over her decades, I think we can all learn something from that dedication and selflessness to service. I would like to finish by reflecting on the statement made by former prime minister Paul Keating which has already been mentioned by the Deputy Premier this morning. PJ Keating wrote—

In the 20th century, the self became privatised, while the public realm, the realm of the public good, was broadly neglected.

Queen Elizabeth understood this and instinctively attached herself to the public good against what she recognised as a tidal wave of private interest and private reward. And she did this for a lifetime. Never deviating.

He went on to say—

With her passing her example of public service remains with us as a lesson in dedication to a lifelong mission in what she saw as the value of what is both enduringly good and right.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.43 am): As the state member for Moggill and as a life member of the Australian Monarchist League, it is a honour to make a contribution to this condolence motion in the Queensland parliament and in doing so pay respects to an incredible, inspirational and devoted head of state and sovereign—a true leader whose limitless strength, wisdom and support was graciously offered not only to the people of Queensland but also to Australia and all of its states and territories as well as to citizens of the Commonwealth of Nations and indeed to people of various countries and cultures around the world.

On 8 September 2022 Queen Elizabeth II passed away peacefully at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. I wish to place on record my formal condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and all members of the Royal Family for the very personal family loss of their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has certainly marked the end of an incredible period in world history. The historic seven-decade reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was the embodiment of absolute and unwavering service, loyalty, commitment and dedication. The life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was one that was well lived and was most certainly devoted to service, duty, faith and family.

From her proclamation on 6 February 1952 until her death on 8 September 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II devoted a lifetime of service to Australia's constitutional monarchy as sovereign and monarch. Whilst many often reflect upon and measure Her Majesty's reign by the number of British prime ministers who served under Queen Elizabeth II, let us not forget that as sovereign of Australia Her Majesty oversaw 16 governors-general of Australia, 17 prime ministers, 12 Queensland governors and 13 Queensland premiers. Such an enduring reign of devoted service to the peace and prosperity and social, economic and cultural advancement of our state of Queensland, our nation of Australia, and of the great Commonwealth of Nations, undoubtedly bequeaths a legacy the likes of which we will most likely never see again.

In the days and weeks that followed the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II the world shared a united sense of bereavement and a profound sense of loss. The passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has been felt profoundly by so many in our state of Queensland and across Australia. In total Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visited Queensland eight times: 1954, 1963, 1970, 1977, 1982, 1988, 2002 and following the devastating Brisbane flood of 2011.

While on the subject of the support and recognition provided by Her Majesty during and following our state's natural disasters, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the late Hon. Bill Lickiss, the former deputy leader of the Queensland Liberal Party and the first state member for Moggill, who in 1975 was awarded the then newly created Queen's Gallantry Medal in recognition of his outstanding bravery and rescue efforts during the 1974 Brisbane floods. During these floods the late Bill Lickiss was engaged in flood relief operations in Moggill. He was working from an Army vehicle with two soldiers and a civilian when it came into contact with powerlines, throwing all of the occupants into floodwaters. Despite the immediate danger Mr Lickiss persisted in trying to rescue these men, bringing one back to the amphibious vehicle. Sadly both soldiers, Captain Ian Kerr and Corporal Neville Hourigan, lost their lives. I am currently working in collaboration with the Moggill Historical Society, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Brisbane City Council to ensure there is due recognition of this significant event through an appropriate local memorial as we approach the 50th anniversary of the 1974 Brisbane floods.

As the state member for Moggill, on Friday, 9 September 2022 I attended Government House here in Queensland to write a formal message of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III and the entire Royal Family. It was an honour to also attend the Queensland parliament as the state member for Moggill on Sunday, 11 September 2022 for the official proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III as our new sovereign.

Locally, in the electorate of Moggill it has been a pleasure to see and support the various ways in which residents and local organisations have chosen to remember and honour the service and reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I wish to acknowledge and congratulate the staff, students and parents of both Chapel Hill State School and Kenmore South State School, who in recent weeks have held special commemorative tree-planting ceremonies honouring the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I would also like to acknowledge the Pullenvale Progress Association, which next month will also host a special celebration and commemorative tree planting in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The sense of duty and devotion demonstrated by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II serves as an inspiration for all of us. There is no doubt that the significant legacy left by Her Majesty will triumph for generations to come. May Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in eternal peace. Vale, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. God save the King.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.48 am): I am pleased to rise today to make a contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of my constituents of the Jordan electorate. I quote—

... my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service ...

Those words declared by the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947 via a radio broadcast whilst on tour in South Africa have been oft quoted, even today, but it was the words that came next that I found to be as meaningful. Her Majesty went on to say—

But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do.

It was a theme that would recur. In her Christmas address in 1957, five years after she became Queen, she said—

I cannot lead you into battle, I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else, I can give you my heart ... Alan Cowell wrote in the *New York Times* that on these occasions the Queen seemed to acknowledge the frail limits of a constitutional monarch. He wrote—

... a ceremonial head of state with no real political power ... the scion of a dynasty rooted in 19th-century Germany whose ... wealth and ... privileges survive, ultimately, only with the public's consent.

As someone of Greek heritage, I am ever cognisant of when that consent is withdrawn. Queen Elizabeth II understood how important this consent was.

On 9 September 2015, Queen Elizabeth surpassed Queen Victoria as her country's longest-serving monarch, and after the death of Thailand's King on 13 October 2016 she became the modern world's longest reigning. Elizabeth's long years as sovereign were a time of enormous upheaval in which she sought to project and protect the Royal Family as a rare bastion of permanence in a world of shifting values.

It was during her reign that the Succession to the Crown Act was changed to enshrine an equal right to the throne for both sons and daughters. At CHOGM in 2011, with its theme of 'Women as agents of change', the Queen spoke of the need to find ways to allow girls and women to realise their potential and to play their full part in important decision-making processes. The Queen was quite an outstanding if not obvious role model for women. She came to the throne aged 25 at a time when women were rarely seen in leadership roles around the world. She became a working mother way ahead of most other women of her time.

So, whilst we reflect on her incredible service and dedication as monarch and head of state, it is equally important to recognise that she was indeed an important trailblazer as well. I also acknowledge that the Queen was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and there is a personal grief that we all understand but never really see in the stoic ways of the Royal Family, though echoed through the various statements we have read. It was Prince William, now Prince of Wales, who reflected, 'She was by my side at my happiest moments. And she was by my side during the saddest days of my life.'

At her coronation on 2 June 1953, a year after she acceded to the throne, she surveyed a realm emerging from an empire of such geographical reach that it was said the sun never set on it. However, by the new century, as she navigated her advancing years with increasing frailty, the frontiers had shrunk back. Our nation is very different to the Australia of 1953 when the Queen was crowned our sovereign. Today we are many cultures and histories woven together to make the modern Australian story.

Queen Elizabeth never ignored the realities of shifting social norms. She herself acknowledged after the 1999 referendum that it had been clear for some time that, in her own words, 'many Australians' wanted to see constitutional change. She stressed though that the future of the monarchy in Australia was for the Australian people only to decide, whilst reassuring us that whatever happened it would not change her family's 'deep affection for Australia and Australians everywhere'. It was a deep affection that was certainly reciprocated by the people of Australia. On behalf of my electorate, I wish Her Majesty eternal peace.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (11.52 am): I wish to convey my deepest sympathy to His Majesty King Charles III and his family following the passing of his mother, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II. On behalf of the people of the Warrego electorate, I wish to thank Her Majesty the Queen for her loyal service over the last 70 years and congratulate King Charles on his succession. In 1947 on her 21st birthday while speaking from South Africa, Her Majesty declared—

... my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

To the end, Her Majesty was fulfilling her lifelong promise to serve. Just 48 hours prior to her passing, with that smile and a walking stick in hand, she accepted the resignation of one Prime Minister and anointed another.

Her first visit to Queensland was in 1954, and seven subsequent visits to the state were made during her reign. During the 1970 tour of Queensland, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was accompanied by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne. Her Royal Highness Princess Anne accepted an invitation to spend three days on a working sheep station in South-West Queensland near Cunnamulla. The Princess planted a yapunyah tree outside the Cunnamulla Civic Centre, watched on by then mayor, Jack Tonkin, and his wife Alma, the students of St Catherine's Convent and Cunnamulla State School and members of the local Girl Guides and Scouts. The Paroo Shire Council still retains the silver spade Princess Anne used on that occasion.

Cunnamulla locals acknowledged Her Majesty's passing in their own way. Cunnamulla newsagent Merry Higgins paved the way by ringing the bell at St Alban's Anglican Church on the morning news broke that Queen Elizabeth II had died, aged 96, on 8 September. Merry rang the bell 30 times before running out of breath, but she agitated for 96 chimes on the National Day of Mourning a fortnight later on 22 September. Merry was away on the day so she left the bell ringing to the local librarian, Tammy Hickey. Tammy was not sure if she could pull the bell rope 96 times either, but a crew of 20 stepped up to help, including actress princesses from the under-eights spring fair. The local *Warrego Watchman* paper reported 'Royalty rang for royalty'.

Other communities across my electorate have sought to ensure the memory of Her Majesty continues. To commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, there were tree plantings, such as the one I attended on the Queen's Birthday weekend last week in Thallon which was organised by the Thallon Progress Association.

During her visit in 2011, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness travelled down the Brisbane River to view some of the areas impacted by the January floods. They met the emergency personnel, volunteers and those who were affected by the natural disasters during the summer of 2010-11. Her Majesty always had a great understanding of natural disasters and an empathy for those who were impacted in our state.

She is the only Queen that I and many Australians have known. Her reign of 70 years was the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female monarch in history. I watched some of His Majesty King Charles's tour and addresses to the House of Commons and Lords, the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Senedd in Wales. This was described by one commentator as a gruelling tour. I looked up the area of the lands which the King had travelled to, only to find it was smaller than my electorate of Warrego. I therefore extend an invitation to the King to visit my electorate. It will be just like travelling at home.

Vale, Elizabeth the Great, and long live the King.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.56 am): I rise to support the condolence motion moved today acknowledging the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and offer my condolences. Prior to the Queen's passing, I was unaware of the history of the Queen's visit to Rockhampton, which I have since found out via Wikipedia. Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Rockhampton on 15 March 1954. Thousands of people from across Central Queensland lined the streets to catch a glimpse of our then new Queen. There were reports that up to 60,000 people attended. Rockhampton city was decorated with flags and bunting in the weeks leading up to the visit as they prepared for their arrival. A fireworks display at the Rockhampton Showgrounds on 12 March 1954 signalled the start of the week-long celebrations. A street march featuring five marching bands paraded through city streets and there was a riverside carnival along the Fitzroy River on the night of 13 March.

Three Humber Pullman cars, two Humber Super Snipe cars, two Holden cars and one Land Rover arrived in Rockhampton by rail several days before the royal visit to be used as part of the Queen's motorcade. After months of preparation, Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived in Rockhampton on 15 March 1954. A special commemorative edition of the Rockhampton local newspaper, the *Morning Bulletin*, was published. In an unprecedented move, the paper featured nothing on the front page except bordered photographs of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh and was accompanied by just one message specifically addressing the royal couple's visit, which read, 'With loyalty and affection, Central Queensland says: Welcome.' Special trains had been organised to bring people from the more remote parts of Central Queensland into Rockhampton for the royal visit.

When the Queen and Duke arrived at Rockhampton airport, the royal party was met by Rockhampton Mayor Rex Pilbeam and his wife and the Queensland Premier Vince Gair and his wife, Ellen, to name a few. The royals proceeded to a civic reception at City Hall where Mayor Pilbeam officially welcomed them to the city. In her reply to Mayor Pilbeam's welcome address, the Queen

referenced the flooding that had impacted the Rockhampton area a month prior, saying that she had read with concern the accounts of the recent flooding the area had experienced and she sent her sympathy to those affected by disaster. The Queen said she hoped that the damage could be quickly repaired. She thanked the mayor for his kind and loyal address and said that she had been fortunate to visit Rockhampton because they understood it was the pastoral and commercial capital of Central Queensland.

The bells of St Paul's Cathedral and St Joseph's Cathedral in Rockhampton tolled in honour of the royal visitors, and both the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh signed the same visitors' condolence book that the Queen's uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, had signed in 1946. The Queen expressed regret that she was unable to see a rodeo and asked Mayor Pilbeam to keep it in mind should the couple return to Rockhampton. She recalled an enjoyable time she had had at a rodeo in Canada. The chairs used by the Queen and Duke at the civic reception were hand-crafted and made from Queensland maple and upholstered in red velvet with gold monograms and were manufactured by local company, Tucker and Tucker. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.01 pm): Queen Elizabeth was and will remain an icon to the world. To put it simply, Queen Elizabeth was the Michael Jordan of aristocracy and has been the most recognisable person from the four corners of the globe during the majority of her 96 years. There have been over 200 films and series on Queen Elizabeth which in itself is extraordinary and highlights the constant attention from admirers around the world.

Born on 21 April 1926, the then princess acceded to the throne on 2 June 1953. The Queen was the longest serving monarch in British history and ushered the monarchy into the 20th and 21st century. The Queen was served by 15 prime ministers during her reign and made the first radio broadcast in October 1940 during World War II. Some of Queen Elizabeth's most notable achievements include service in World War II, modernising the monarchy, her tireless charity work, guiding the transformation to the Commonwealth, supporting racial justice in the Commonwealth and becoming the first British monarch to address the Congress in the United States of America. The Queen was a steady hand and a role model for stability to the Commonwealth and throughout the world.

The Queen has lived throughout and encountered more than most people could imagine in 10 life spans. Queen Elizabeth was loved worldwide, no matter one's race, creed, religion or age. However, it was Queen Elizabeth's common touch, kindness and love of the people that everyone will remember. Queen Elizabeth was a leader of the highest calibre who never faltered in the face of war, tyranny, domestic affairs or threats. The great American general Douglas MacArthur once said—

A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.

This, I believe, explains Queen Elizabeth perfectly.

Personally, the passing of the Queen was a very sad day for me, and the outpouring of emotions through my electorate of Hill, Queensland, Australia and the world was nothing like I have ever seen before. Queen Elizabeth II will forever be remembered and never forgotten. On behalf of the Hill electorate, vale to the Queen.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.04 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Whilst not a monarchist, I would like to comment on her life and her contributions as a leader, as a woman who led and a woman who led for such a substantial period of time. Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne at 26 years of age, following the death of her father. She was Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed Forces for more than seven decades and was the Queen reigning over 32 sovereign states.

Her commitment to public life has been well published and spoken of since her death, but I have to share again some of the speech she made at just 21 years of age during her tour of South Africa where she said—

I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.'

It was an incredible philosophy and premonition on her behalf when you consider the volume and breadth of duties that she carried out over her lifetime and indeed up until the week of her death. During her reign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth was served by 15 Australian prime ministers, 16 governors-general of Australia and 13 Queensland premiers. We may never again see a monarch who serves over this period of time.

Not only was her commitment to public life incredibly inspiring, her role as a woman who reigned was particularly significant, certainly for other women. Growing up, I have memories of seeing Her Majesty on our currency and recognising at a young age that this was a woman of power. At the time this was fairly significant and, on reflection, I have been really fortunate to grow up in a place and during a period where women do have that kind of formal authority. While she was always cautious to speak strongly on women's rights, Her Majesty did make a fairly powerful statement for someone in her role during the 2011 British Commonwealth summit in Australia where the theme was Women as Agents of Change where she said—

It reminds us of the potential in our societies that is yet to be fully unlocked and encourages us to find ways to allow girls and women to play their full part.

This speech followed changes at the time to royal succession laws which she oversaw that enabled daughters of monarchs equal rights to the throne, not only in cases like hers where no male heir was available.

Her Majesty was a feminist icon, not to all, but to many, who recognised her accession to the monarchy at an early age, her ability and willingness to immediately uphold the role and to not diminish herself in the role or to diminish the position on account of her gender.

Many in my electorate have been saddened by the Queen's passing. People have shared stories with me, memories of lining up waiting to view the Queen on her way to Government House which is located in my electorate on Fernberg Road, particularly during her inaugural visit in 1954. I have heard stories of houses being cleaned and decorated, of children wearing their best, and people lining the streets for hours. By the end of her 1954 visit, 75 per cent of the Queensland population had caught sight of the Queen.

Not only have people benefited from Her Majesty's visits to Queensland, but Government House itself has been the beneficiary of a number of renovations in anticipation of the Queen's visits. For anyone who has visited Government House, as many of us in this room have, the current iteration of Government House is both beautiful and timeless. Not all visitors, however, notice the bronze statue of the Queen which was relocated from Queen's Place in the CBD to Government House in 2016. This is one of two bronze statues of Her Majesty by acclaimed South Australian artist Dr John Dowie. The other Dowie statue was gifted by the Order of Australia Association to the people of Australia and unveiled by the Queen at the official opening of New Parliament House in Canberra in 1988. Government House in Fernberg Road was declared the official mourning place for Her Majesty. It is an interesting reflection that almost 70 years since locals were lining up to welcome her on her first official visit to Government House, locals were now lining up to Government House to farewell her.

Her Majesty is survived by four children, including the now proclaimed King Charles III, as well as eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, and we all know how much they will miss her, as well as those who knew her well. I would like to convey my sympathies to those who continue to hurt from her loss and thank Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for what was a lifetime of service. Vale.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (12.08 pm): On 8 September, our world lost Elizabeth II, a titanic figure. Like so many in the Scenic Rim electorate and around the world, I mark with sadness the death of Her Majesty the Queen. Her passing truly is the end of an age. The world lost a link, through her first UK Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, someone born in 1874, and also through her grandfather King George V, born in 1865, to an age long gone before us, an age that brought about the Australia we know today. In fact, that age has shaped much of the global order we still live in today, even though the baton of leadership in that order has passed from Great Britain to other states along the way.

It has been noted by many that Her Majesty was a master diplomat and her knowledge of world affairs not only in the Commonwealth but across the globe was unmatched. The advice provided by her as sovereign to her ministers no doubt drew on this unparalleled knowledge and expertise and through this, the world no doubt benefited. Her Majesty was once described as 'Queen of the world' so great was her influence. Former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson noted when speaking about the Queen's death, 'She had the patience and the sense of history to see that troubles come and go and that disasters are seldom as bad as they seem.' That type of advice, counsel and perspective is, quite frankly, priceless. There is no way to replace it now. It is gone.

While I never had the opportunity to meet Her Majesty, I have been told by a close friend who was fortunate to speak with the Queen at one of her many afternoon teas hosted at Buckingham Palace in the early 2000s that the Queen had a razor sharp ability to discuss topics of interest with her guests. In a three- to four-minute conversation my friend was asked about export opportunities for Queensland

to the United Kingdom, which is not quite what she had expected to be talking about. This type of experience shows the Queen took an interest in all parts of the Commonwealth and the people of the Commonwealth. She was our Queen and the Queen saw us as her people.

Her Majesty's life was an amazing example of duty and service, one we could all aspire to. She earned the ultimate respect with her steadfastness through so many changes over time. It is this duty, service and steadfastness that underpins Australia's democratic institutions which all have the Crown at the core. No matter your views on the monarchy and Australia's future arrangements, it is undeniable that the Crown is at the core of our democracy. The courts, the parliament, the executive, our police and our military—it all comes back to the Crown.

The Queen wore that crown impeccably and, as I said when we marked the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip last year, the Crown is weighty in history, expectation and pressure, both from the Royal Family and from society. The Queen and the Crown are a bulwark against the excesses of power and the building up of a cult of power around elected leaders. Our system of parliamentary democracy ensures that no member of parliament can assume absolute power. Our heads of government are indeed first among equals and it is the Crown at the core that provides stability for that system. It has served us well and it should serve us well long into the future.

For many, Her Majesty was also akin to grandmother of the world. Indeed, she reminded me in many ways of my own grandmother who passed away aged 97 in 2015. People saw in the Queen a constancy and stability over the years. There was an affection too from many Queenslanders, and that was reflected greatly in 2011 when I was among many thousands of Queenslanders who lined the Brisbane River to see the Queen passing by. While the nature of this warmth and affection towards Her Majesty changed somewhat in the years that passed after Sir Robert Menzies, our prime minister at the time, made his famous comments in 1963 about seeing Her Majesty passing by, there is no doubt Queensland has held Her Majesty in the highest regard and mourn her passing.

Her Majesty exhibited a strong Christian faith. At her state funeral the archbishop of Canterbury recalled Her Majesty's words of reassurance during the depths of COVID-19 lockdowns when she drew on the words of *We'll Meet Again*, music of hope from the darkness of the Second World War. The archbishop pointed to that hope when he said that those who followed the Queen's example, an inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say, 'We will meet again.'

I have had the privilege to be elected to this parliament four times and to swear that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her heirs and successors according to law. I take this opportunity in marking the passing of our Queen to affirm my ongoing allegiance to the Crown and to His Majesty King Charles III as the embodiment of the Crown that sits at the core of this parliament's and this nation's democracy. I extend my personal condolences in addition to those expressed by this parliament to the King and all members of the Royal Family on the death of their mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, cousin and friend. May Her Majesty rest in peace.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.13 pm): I rise to speak on the condolence motion to acknowledge the lifetime of service Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II gave to the Commonwealth. The sheer length of her reign has never been seen before and is unlikely to be seen again. Her reign, spanning exactly 70 years, seven months and two days, saw 16 Australian prime ministers and 13 Queensland premiers. In 1926 when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was born, women had only had the opportunity to vote in Australia for less than 24 years. Gandhi was still in prison for protesting against the British colonial government in India and the First World War had only ended eight years previously.

My mother was born in 1938 and I know that the Queen represented a lot to her generation, particularly for women, who had had few role models up to that point. One of the reasons the Queen's life and death has meant so much to Australians is, in my opinion, because of who she was. No doubt the longevity of her reign plays a role, but I believe it is also because of the calibre of her personality and her approach to her duties not just to the Crown, but to her family. Her bipartisanship, her steadfast loyalty and her commitment to her role provided us all with a sense of continuity and stability.

The Queen described her late husband, Prince Philip, as her 'stay'. I believe how that is many people felt about her. In fact, on Friday, 9 September 2022, when I woke up to learn that the Queen had died, a poem Philip Larkin wrote and relayed at Her Majesty's silver jubilee came to mind—

In times when nothing stood
but worsened, or grew strange
there was one constant good:
she did not change.

Like other people around my age, I look back on my younger years and I am grateful that social media was not around to record some of my more embarrassing moments. Unlike us, though, the Queen's life has been recorded from birth and it is safe to say she has barely put a foot wrong. That in and of itself is quite remarkable.

Dame Quentin Bryce, former governor-general of Australia and former governor of Queensland, had spent some time with the Queen. In an interview on ABC she said that while people often speak of her exemplary commitment to her duties, her observation was that the Queen thoroughly enjoyed her role, taking a genuine interest in every single person she met.

As is his wont, Paul Keating said it perfectly in his statement on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II—

She was an exemplar of public leadership, married for a lifetime to political restraint, remaining always, the constitutional monarch.'

At the age of 96 and just two days before she died, Queen Elizabeth II swore in her 15th British Prime Minister. My mother was known to say, 'You end up with the face you deserve.' If that is the case, the Queen's inner beauty and grace was lovingly reflected in the last photos taken of her on this occasion. As the saying goes, the camera never lies and those photos showed to me a happy, gracious and contented woman who was at peace with herself. She had certainly earned it.

I join with others in this House to acknowledge the end of the second Elizabethan era. I take this opportunity to wish King Charles III a long and successful reign filled with peace and prosperity for the Commonwealth.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.17 pm): The famous speech by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies who, after being so impressed with Her Majesty, said on the Queen's second visit in 1963—

All I ask you to remember, in this country of yours, is that every man, woman and child who even sees you with a passing glimpse ... will remember it ... with joy ... in the words of the old seventeenth-century poet who wrote those famous words "I did but see her passing by. And yet I love her till I die".

I think many people in Queensland would relate to that having had just a passing a glimpse of the Queen when she visited Queensland on so many occasions. Personally, my nan, Josie Lucas, and my great-grandfather, who was the mayor of Goondiwindi in 1954, had the pleasure of being presented to the Queen. It is something that stayed with my nan for a very long time. She was very proud of that moment and very proud of my great-grandfather, the then mayor of Goondiwindi, Bill Lucas, who was able to be presented to the Queen.

Of course, Her Majesty had great affection for the seat of Gregory. That was evident when the Queen visited Longreach twice. The first occasion was in 1970 when the then mayor of Longreach, Sir James Walker, and his wife, Lady Vivienne, hosted a luncheon at their home on Camden Park Station just outside of Longreach. People came from all over the outback to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. The district was in the middle of a drought and the royal couple were very sympathetic to the challenges it created for the local people. Of course, there is a reminder of the Queen's visit in 1970 as two fig trees were planted and they are growing very strong at the moment in the park near the council chambers.

The Queen's second trip to Longreach was on 29 April 1988 to open the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre. This was a visionary project which celebrates the story of the outback and the people of the outback. The second royal visit to Longreach within 18 years demonstrates the love of the outback expressed by the Queen. Of course, this was also demonstrated when the Queen and Prince Philip were so impressed with a man called Tom Kruse, and I have spoken about him in the parliament previously. No, I am not talking about the Hollywood Tom Cruise or *Top Gun* Tom Cruise. This bloke I am talking about is a real action hero, the Birdsville Track's Tom Kruse.

Tom worked the Birdsville Track mail run from 1936 to 1957, driving his Leyland Badger truck. He delivered mail and other supplies including general stores, fuel and medicines to remote stations from Marree in the north-west of South Australia to Birdsville, totalling 523 kilometres, through flooding creeks and rivers and getting bogged in the desert dunes. Tom Kruse came to fame with the release of John Heyer's documentary *The Back of Beyond* in 1954. The film follows the typical journey made by Tom Kruse. The Queen and Prince Philip watched the documentary and were so impressed with Tom's determination and, more importantly, his service to rural and remote families in the outback that he was appointed MBE in 1955. The people of the outback and the people of Gregory hold Her Majesty in warm

affection and regard. On their behalf, I express my sincere and sad condolences to the whole Royal Family for their great loss. Rest in peace, Ma'am. Thank you for your service. I reaffirm my allegiance to King Charles III.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the condolence motion moved by the Premier and to join in the messages of gratitude and thanks for the service given by Queen Elizabeth II to our nation and the Commonwealth. Many words were and will continue to be spoken during the period of mourning about the Queen's wisdom and lifelong dedication to service. While I am a republican and have deeply held views on how Australia was colonised, I do not believe it is a conflict to recognise the significant contribution that has been made by Queen Elizabeth II over more than seven decades. Many Australians, including me, will have known no other head of state to Australia. As children, our schools had photos of the Queen and we sang *God Save the Queen*. This was normal for us; we knew no different.

When I reflect on how the Queen influenced our lives as I was growing up, I think of my mother. My mother was a trailblazer for her times. She was a hardworking mother who faced the struggles that came with balancing a lot of responsibilities. The Queen was also a working mother, and I know that many of us admired her work ethic and her devotion to duty. These are qualities that I deeply admired in my own mother, so it is not difficult for me to admire those qualities in the Queen. I also acknowledge the value that the Queen provided to us as a nation. These positions are not exclusive of each other. I recognise that Queen Elizabeth II herself stated that she respected the self-determination of Australian peoples. It was during her reign that the Australia Act 1986 was passed, eliminating many of the remaining opportunities for UK interference in Australian government. Appeals from Australian courts to British courts were abolished. The relationship between Australia and Britain clearly matured and evolved throughout the Queen's reign.

While the Queen visited Australia on 16 occasions starting in 1954, I do not have any personal memories or stories to draw from; however, from the photos and stories I have seen published, Queen Elizabeth II was warmly welcomed during each of her visits. She is held in deep affection by the Australian public, an affection that, from all accounts, she reciprocated. The Queen is an integral link to our history and she will forever be connected to pivotal moments for us as a nation. Her influence will be felt for generations.

During her visit to Australia in 1954, the Queen visited 57 towns and cities during the 58 days she and Prince Philip spent in Australia. She traversed the country by plane, train, ship and car, from Cairns in the north, to Broken Hill in the west and Hobart in the south. On her visit in 1973 the Queen opened the Sydney Opera House, in 1988 she opened both new Parliament House in Canberra and the Darling Harbour complex in Sydney, in 2006 the Queen opened the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and there were many more official openings across Australia at which the Queen was the guest of honour. She made many visits to regional areas of Australia.

Many of us can identify with loss, and seeing the loss felt by the Queen when she, too, lost people close to her—especially her father, her mother, her sister and her life partner—made her more real and like us. We could both empathise and sympathise. There is a profoundness in the Queen's own words that I can relate to when I reflect on the passing of my own family and friends. She said that grief is the price we pay for love. Along with my fellow Australians I, too, was saddened when I heard the news that the Queen had passed. As a nation, we reflect on her remarkable commitment to service, we collectively express our sorrow at the ending of an era and the close of the second Elizabethan age, and we wish King Charles III all the best.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth II—'Queen Elizabeth the Great'—Queen of Australia, Queen of Queensland and her other realms and territories, and head of the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth ascended to the throne on the passing of her father, King George VI, on 6 February 1952. Her coronation took place on 2 June 1953. Her passing is recorded as 8 September 2022. Her reign was 70 years, seven months and two days—the longest of any British monarch.

My dearly departed mother, Irene Dorothy Crandon, was a monarchist, although that is not how she would have said it; she just loved the Queen and her family—so much so that when we came to Australia in June 1960 on the *Fairsea* as ten-pound Poms, Mum decided that I should dress as Anthony Armstrong-Jones—the commoner groom of Princess Margaret—in the fancy-dress function. I still have that photo proudly displayed at home, the standard dad or grandad joke being about my 'first marriage at age six'. I am unsure whether Mum attended the Queen's coronation with the estimated three million other people who did but, if not, she would have been there in spirit. If she did not, it may have been

because she was carrying me, her third of seven children, at the time. That I was born in the year of the Queen's coronation has always made me feel a special affinity, especially because of Mum's love for her. I remember that one of the special ornaments Mum had—long lost now—was a moneybox in the shape of a crown from the Queen's 1953 coronation celebrations.

The closest I ever got to the Queen was in 2010. Quite unexpectedly a crowd began to gather near Trafalgar Square in London. My wife, Pauline, and I were near the front of the crowd—second row, in fact. Just then a black car pulled up and out jumped Queen Elizabeth, who walked within six feet of us. There was no fanfare or obvious security. The Queen was loved by one and all. We will forever remember that moment.

When I think of the Queen and her devotion to her people—her life of devotion to us, as she pronounced on her 21st birthday—it causes me to reflect on the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson—

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of the intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the beauty in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that one life has breathed easier because you lived here. This is to have succeeded.

The world is a better place because Queen Elizabeth II lived. Her reign brought with it much to celebrate for all of us. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II. Long may King Charles III reign. Long live the King.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to extend my condolences to the Royal Family following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II last month. I also extend my sympathies to the many people in this state and further afield who were devoted to the Queen and moved by her passing.

As I reflect on this monumental moment in our shared history, it strikes me that the Queen was an exemplar of strong female leadership. She was, no doubt, an inspiring role model for many female leaders. Though, of course, the privilege to serve was thrust upon her by the lottery of hereditary monarchy, it could never be said that she shirked that responsibility. She made stoicism, strength and extraordinary endurance her allies and welded herself to her duties. In doing so she won admiration across generations and far beyond her own shores.

The Queen's longevity as a leader is difficult to grasp. There is a certain disorienting sensation when contemplating the world on her accession in 1952 and comparing it with the world she departed in September 2022. London had barely rebuilt itself after its devastation during the Second World War. Peering at Australian history at the time, we see institutions and relics that are now virtually unrecognisable. At that time, we still traded in pounds and shillings and had yet to embrace our own national flag. Our First Australians were still not counted in the national census and though we had a female head of state we had yet to meet our first female minister. Fast forward to today and the modern Australian political landscape has thankfully forged a confident path away from those anachronistic settings. We are decidedly more sure of ourselves and advancing agendas that could not have been foreseen when the Queen first emerged as our constitutional monarch. During her 70-year reign, she bore witness to fundamental change and even the weathering of the institutions she represented here in Australia. However, she remained a restrained, patient and reassuring presence in our political landscape.

I pay my greatest respect to the Queen's exceptional stamina and dedication and her instinctive attachment to what she saw as her lifelong mission. I also stand here with the people of Cook behind me. I fully recognise that this moment in history has provoked diverse emotional responses from Indigenous communities the world over, including those in the very Far North of this great state. It is right and proper that, in honouring the memory of the Queen, this exemplar of public service and dedication to duty, we also acknowledge that here in Queensland sovereignty was never ceded and the full length of our Path to Treaty has yet to be walked.

There are a multitude of perspectives on the impacts of monarchy and colonialism in this country. One important legacy that we can all be grateful for is our shared ability to raise our voice. For now we acknowledge an extraordinary woman, a powerful leader and a unifying force. We acknowledge the joy the Queen brought to countless millions of people. With her passing, we have lost an archetype of public service and a woman with rare wit and skill to retain the confidence and affection of the public through such a remarkable period of global evolution. If we can somehow draw on her incredible stoicism and embrace of progress, we will be well placed to discharge our own duties here in this place.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.32 pm): I am proud to make a contribution to this condolence motion which stands in the name of the Premier for our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and affirm my ongoing allegiance to the Crown. On the morning of Friday, 9 September, I, like everyone in my electorate of Southern Downs, woke to the news that the Queen had passed away overnight.

Although Her Majesty had been in declining health in recent times, the news that she was no longer with us came as a shock to me personally and it appears that this feeling was shared widely throughout the world. I am sure that I am among many others in having felt a pervasive and deep sadness over the news of the Queen's passing.

The Queen was the only monarch that most of us have ever known and suddenly she is no more. Later that morning I spoke to my father, who was six years old when King George VI died. He told me that he still remembers, even at the young age of six, the news of the king's passing and the impact that it had on the people around him. Although our society and the world of 1952 have irreversibly changed in the intervening 70 years, my dad senses that the same instincts of loyalty and affection continue to run deep and can be seen in the overwhelming and lovingly sad response from people everywhere and on social media at news of the Queen's passing.

The following week my son William and I wrote messages of sympathy to the new king in a condolence book here at Parliament House. Even William at the tender age of eight wrote a touching message expressing his sadness that he never got to meet the Queen. I glanced through the book myself and was pleased to see that many people from all walks of life truly loved and admired the Queen and that her long reign was a beacon of comfort, stability and certainty in our ever-changing world, and I think that it was that stability—that always being there—which made the Queen's passing such a momentous and sad event. How can something so constant and apparently everlasting come to an end?

We have lost a truly remarkable sovereign. Throughout her 70-year reign—the longest in the over 1,000-year history of the Crown—Elizabeth II was a tower of strength and dignity. She proved over many years that lasting and beloved leadership is not founded upon power and influence, although nominally she possessed both, but is about always being there and being a steadfast reference point through time and in the lives of people and nations. Throughout her long reign the Queen faced many difficult challenges, many of which related to her role as head of her family. At these times we saw that the Queen was human, could change and never forgot the duty of service that she owed her people.

To me it meant a great deal to be sworn in to duty in the Queen's name. When I was commissioned in the Royal Australian Air Force as a young flying officer, I was proud to publicly swear an oath to the Queen and be commissioned in her name to defend her and to resist her enemies for the people of Australia. My Air Force commission certificate bears the signature of the Governor-General as head of state and is stamped with the Great Seal of Australia bearing the name 'Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia'. As a member of parliament, I am equally proud to have sworn an oath to her to serve the people of Southern Downs. I am sure anyone who has been sworn in—from soldiers and new Australian citizens to Cub Scouts and Girl Guides, from police to justices of the peace—would understand what I mean. It certainly meant something to the Queen herself, who set an impeccable example to us and lived always true to her coronation vows.

On a personal note, I know a number of members have spoken about the 2011 floods and the Queen's visit to Queensland to meet the victims of those floods. I remember being trucked out from RAAF Base Amberley and spending a lot of time helping to pull down houses that had been affected by the floods. I was up to my waist in mud at times pulling drowned chickens out of chicken coops and seeing the owners of houses devastated, and that was a very difficult time. When I saw the message of condolence that the Queen had issued—it was passed on to us by my commanding officer at the time—it made me realise that we were not in this alone and I know that it was that presence and that sympathy which meant a great deal to Queenslanders at the time.

I wish our new King the very best as he commences his reign and I extend my sympathies to His Majesty and to his family at their sad loss. The Queen is dead. God save the King.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.37 pm): On behalf of the people of Hervey Bay, I too want to contribute to the condolence motion before us today and send my sincere and profound sympathy to the Royal Family after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022. As many other members have already said, Her Majesty was for many, if not all, in the electorate of Hervey Bay the only monarch they had ever known. The Queen's reign of over 70 years out of her long 96 years was a testament to her values of service and a desire to lead the Commonwealth throughout her life. As we all know, she continued to perform her duties right up until a couple of days before her passing, which, by all accounts, is extraordinary.

Over the many weeks since her passing I have asked several people in Hervey Bay to reflect on what they felt the Queen meant to them and their overall comments were stability, work ethic, leadership, caring, compassion and a resolute commitment to serve her people. Many said that she

emboldened goodness and kindness and gave them a focal point in their lives. Following her passing, my local council, the Fraser Coast Regional Council, opened a condolence book for residents to put in words their own feelings on the passing of Her Majesty. As I read through the many hundreds of messages of condolence, it was not surprising to see the depth of warmth shown by others who have never met the Queen in person as they expressed their sorrow at her passing. Tania, Janine and Rider said—

To our beautiful Queen, you have touched many lives during your reign as monarch. We will always love how gracious you are to everyone and how humble a leader you have been.

A retired colonel said—

In 1959 I swore allegiance to the Queen and continue today now with King Charles. Thank you for your guidance and your dedication.

John and David said—

Thank you. Your life has impacted so many around the world. Well done, Faithful Servant.

The mayor of Fraser Coast Regional Council, Councillor George Seymour, said, 'We can all draw inspiration from her strong, steady and stoic leadership.' Many said her passing was an end of an era, one that we as a community may never see again. Some said she was the last link to a bygone era where time and values were different, where people respected service in its purest form, and they acknowledged the sacrifice of the Queen in pursuit of this goal. While many in this place would not list themselves as monarchists, whatever your opinion or position, it must go without saying that what the Queen was able to reflect to the rest of the Commonwealth was a life of calm, steady service to all.

Currently many talk about what role the monarchy will play in the future for Australia. That is a debate that I am sure will be had in the coming years, but at this time I think it is appropriate that this House, and rightly so, recognises the service of Her Majesty to Australia. What we must remember in all of what has been said about the Queen since her passing is that she was foremost a person like you and I with a family that now grieves her loss as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

To His Majesty King Charles III, the people of Hervey Bay congratulate Your Majesty's bittersweet accession to the throne and pass on our deepest sympathy to you and the Royal Family. May your grief be tempered by the knowledge of the extraordinary life well lived by Her Majesty the Queen. In closing I will again take a quote from our regional condolence book, from Kim in Hervey Bay, who simply said, 'To the most remarkable woman of our time, it is time for you to rest now. Rest in peace, Ma'am.'

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.40 pm): I rise to support the motion of condolence for the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Most people on my side of the House know that I am a very strong supporter of an Australian head of state—not a republic: a tweaking of the system to replace the Governor-General with an Australian appointed by the Australian parliament. However, that does not mean I do not have deep respect for the monarchy and, in particular, Queen Elizabeth II and the role she has played over the last 70 years. Australia and England are inextricably linked in so many different ways. Until recently the majority of Australians had English ancestry—white Australians, of course. My grandmother herself was British and so we had a very strong connection to the old country. The British flag is on our flag. The Westminster system of government comes from Great Britain. There are lots of sporting rivalries, whether it is in cricket, tennis or rugby, between the two nations and, of course, we have developed a very strong love for the Royal Family.

The Queen represented everything that is good about England. I was brought up, as I have heard a couple of more mature members mention, singing *God save the Queen* at primary school. It was the first tune I learned when I played drums in the recorder band. I remember as a young person watching the investiture of the King, the then Prince of Wales, which was a pretty big deal, the wedding of Charles and Di, and mum always made sure that we listened to the Queen's Christmas message on Christmas Day. When any Australian from my generation goes to England, the first thing they want to do is go to Buckingham Palace and marvel at the fact you are actually there seeing something that is so important to our history.

I cannot add much to what people have already said about Queen Elizabeth and all her amazing attributes. She did bring a sense of stability. There was a constancy about her. She had a calming influence. I know many Queensland residents have been encouraged by the ray of hope given on the visits that she has made, particularly after disasters. I heard the member for Gympie mention that one of the key roles of Queen Elizabeth was as defender of the faith. That is the Christian faith. The centre of that faith is Jesus Christ and he once said, 'I have come not to be served, but to serve.' I cannot think of a better epitaph than that for Queen Elizabeth II. Vale, Queen Elizabeth.

100 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak to the condolence motion. I extend my condolences to the family and friends of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch most of our population has known. Although I am a republican, I respect the life, the leadership and the stewardship of Queen Elizabeth. She publicly showed strength and dignity as a working mother, albeit with a lot more home help than most working women. During her reign the line of succession provisions have changed so that gender no longer discriminates in the line of succession to the throne. This stops discrimination against female children. The sequence of birth now determines the next in line to the monarchy.

Queen Elizabeth and the late Prince Philip visited my home town of Mackay twice during her reign. Thousands saw her at the Mackay Showgrounds on 15 March 1954 when she was the first reigning sovereign to visit Australia. The royal couple docked at the Mackay harbour and it was reported that about 30,000 people turned out to line the streets and be in the showgrounds to catch a glimpse of her. On her way to the Mackay airport to fly to Rockhampton the Mackay Pipe Band performed for her. The Mackay Pipe Band is still performing at important local events, keeping its proud history alive by training young locals to be our next generation of pipers.

The royal couple returned again on 16 April 1970. I remember this visit well. What seemed like the whole of Mackay was there. Everyone jockeyed for positions along the streets to catch a glimpse of the royals. Their mode of transport was in reverse this time. They flew in and then they left by ship on the *HMS Stuart* before transferring to the Royal Yacht *Britannia* at St Bees Island. The Holy Trinity Church hosted a reception for Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at their parish hall. It was poignant that the marking of her passing was at Holy Trinity Church with an ecumenical service to honour her duty.

The Mackay community was represented at Queen Elizabeth's funeral by our very own war hero, VC Keith Payne. Vice President of Mackay RSL, Col Benson, told me, 'Serving men and women, no matter how long they served, we served and honoured the Queen. Through our lives she was a gracious person, a figurehead to look up to.' He personally was impressed by the way that she was always perfectly dressed. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

100 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. It comes as no surprise to me to find that for some in this chamber it is of vital importance that they make a contribution to this condolence motion and yet for others it is not that important at all. Acknowledging that, for me it highlights the complexities of this person's role, along with other significant and intricate divisions created by the history of the institutions and establishments of which she represented. However, today my small contribution will be focused on the person who we called Queen Elizabeth.

At a young age, as we have heard, her world was inextricably changed and the expectations upon her were absolutely immense. Her life was already determined for her. It was always going to be one of service. What I found impressive was not her statement about the commitment that she made at 21, but her resolve to stay true to that commitment for her entire life. For me that created a growing respect. The longevity of that commitment has only seen that respect increase.

The Queen must have made many thousands of speeches. The one which stands out for me was the speech made by her in 2011 in Dublin Castle, the capital of a free and independent Ireland, the home of my ancestors. In her speech she spoke of how it was impossible to ignore the weight of history and how this trip reminded her of the complexities of the histories of the two islands and its many layers and traditions, but also the importance of forbearance and conciliation and of being able to bow to the past and not be bound by it.

The Queen also spoke of the sad and regrettable reality that throughout history their islands have experienced more than their fair share of heartache, turbulence and loss, but that she believed in the kind of future that their grandparents could only dream of. I found those comments to be warm and extremely genuine. Like many on those islands she had felt firsthand loss in her family but was not trapped by anger or bitterness. Rather, she wanted to share the important common goals of family, friendship and affection, which she identified as the most precious of resources. She wanted what everybody else wanted.

As Queen for over 70 years, Queen Elizabeth witnessed the demise of the once all-powerful British Empire. She experienced a world war and saw massive structural changes not only on her island, affecting her people and economy, but also around the world, including obviously the Commonwealth. The Queen lived in a period when the media used to report the news and then moved to creating the

news, targeting her family and herself. At all times she was graceful, respectful and resilient. There are many who could learn much from this unique and amazing mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Vale, Elizabeth Windsor.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.50 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the condolence motion moved in the name of the Premier. Today it is with great sadness that I rise on behalf of the Hinchinbrook electorate to pay homage to an incredible woman, a world leader and our monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's reign stretched for more than 70 years and will be fondly remembered not only by those who were closest to her but also by millions across the globe who were touched by her grace. The passing of our monarch has been felt by us all. I take this time to offer our deepest condolences to King Charles III and the entire Royal Family. Your loss is our loss.

Many of us grew up reading about Her Majesty or catching a glimpse of her on television and she had a profound effect on many. With her most infectious personality she gained the respect of generations. She was our constant, whether it be from afar or through some of her many tours around the world. Whilst the Queen never quite made it to the Hinchinbrook electorate, I am sure, if given the chance, Her Majesty would have loved to have visited Wallaman Falls, met with banana growers or canecutters, or explored Hinchinbrook Island.

However, Her Majesty did tour parts of our wonderful state, including Townsville, the northern suburbs of which my electorate now extends into. In preparation for the Queen's visit to Townsville, many tradesmen were employed to construct furniture and structures as part of displays and seating for dignitaries and guests. My grandfather Sidney Nelson Fox Morel was a carpenter and one of those tradespeople. He was asked whether or not he would like to stay over the weekend to meet the Queen. Although he had a great respect for the Queen, he had not been home for weeks so said, 'I have to go home and see my own queen.' That woman would inevitably become my grandmother.

Over the weeks since her passing, we have heard countless stories of how awe-inspiring the Queen was and how she touched many lives around the world. While many of those fascinating stories stuck out, none struck me quite like one relating to the Queen's visit to Townsville in the 1970s when a young Vicki Saylor met the Queen. Recently, Vicki's story was recounted in the *Townsville Bulletin* and was a truly life-changing and emotional moment for her.

Vicki remembered watching the incredible scenes of Queen Elizabeth touring the country. As the Queen neared Townsville, Vicki asked her mother, 'Do you think a little black girl would be picked to meet the Queen?' Of course, in 1970 Australia was clearly a different place. Her mother replied, 'Don't be silly. That will never happen.' However, God had a different plan for Vicki. Vicki had the opportunity to meet the Queen through her father, who was a volunteer and performed a lot of community service in Townsville at the time. She told the *Townsville Bulletin* that she had been repeatedly practising her curtsies before the meeting. After all, in those days princesses and queens were from fairytales and were people little girls only dreamt of or read about. For Vicki, meeting a real-life queen was something she had dreamt about her whole life.

Vicki was in complete awe of Queen Elizabeth. She remembers walking up the stairs to meet the Queen, a bunch of Cooktown orchids in her hands and over 100 bobby pins in her hair. She recalls the Queen asking, 'Oh, are they for me?' Vicki remembers cheekily thinking, 'Who else do you think they are for?' Queen Elizabeth then smiled and said, 'Thank you, they are lovely.' Vicki recounts that she knew that she was in the presence of greatness. The Queen simply commanded everybody's attention. While Vicki's story is unique to North Queensland, what I find remarkable is that her encounter with Queen Elizabeth II was mirrored around the world. All those who were fortunate enough to meet her in person have expressed their awe. They all recall a woman devoted to public service and someone we can always aspire to be like.

I congratulate King Charles III. God save the King and vale, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.55 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The passing of Queen Elizabeth has seen an outpouring of grief and sadness never before witnessed on such a huge scale. The whole world has mourned her death; not just the realm or the Commonwealth. The depth of despair etched in people's faces was sincere and their love and respect for this wonderful woman was truly evident. The Queen will be remembered always as a tower of strength to her family and her people. Her quiet dignity and humility were constantly on display. She personified grace and poise and was the embodiment of all things royal. Not once in the face of adversity did she falter. Her strength of character and sense of duty carried her through the many terrible personal and world tragedies she had to endure over 96 years on this earth.

It was incredible to witness the long lines of people waiting to catch a glimpse of the Queen's coffin as it left Balmoral Castle and travelled to St Giles' Cathedral, passing through villages and townships on the way to her final resting place. Peoples' sadness and earnestness were unmistakable. The almost 200,000 people who waited patiently to pay their last respects as the Queen lay in state in Westminster Hall was a fitting tribute to her and the vigil held by family members was an amazing sight. When you uttered the words 'the Queen', everybody knew who you were talking about. Nobody said, 'Which queen?' They all knew it was the Queen of the United Kingdom, who has been a constant in our lives for so long. I wish King Charles III a long and successful reign.

The Queen served the peoples of her realms loyally and cherished the unique experiences she had on many of her visits to various parts of the Commonwealth. Her sense of humour and quick wit were well known and her love for her family and the time she devoted to them was astonishing given her very busy schedule. The Queen never would have expected to take on this role at the young age of 25. However, in 1952, after the death of her father, King George VI, she suddenly became the head of the Commonwealth. The responsibilities that came with that could have been overwhelming. However, the young Queen took everything in her stride and went on to celebrate her silver, golden, diamond and platinum jubilees. Hers was a remarkable life of dedication and service.

During her 96 years, the Queen was a style icon. Her fashion choices were deliberate and unwavering. Her timeless style will long be remembered, with many women endeavouring to emulate her grace and fashion sense over the decades, including her ever-present handbags that always complemented her outfits and jewellery.

On 11 March 1954, the Queen and Prince Philip visited Oakey, in the electorate of Condamine. People travelled from all over the state to catch a fleeting glimpse of the royal couple. A young woman, Mary Coonan—who would later become Mary Weir, my mother—was amongst the crowd at Oakey that warmly welcomed the royals. That is a memory she holds dear to this day. Apparently the Queen commented at the time, 'What has impressed me the most is the long distances people have travelled to see me.' Her humility was ever present. When speaking of his grandmother's passing, Prince William commented that she had given him the strength and love that he needed to survive the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She told him, 'Grief is the price we pay for love.' That is a wise and heartfelt statement.

On behalf of the residents of Condamine, I express my condolences to the Royal Family and my support to the King.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution and speak in respect of the condolence motion that is before the House. With the death of Queen Elizabeth II, we have the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of our sovereign and head of state over her long reign; to reflect on a remarkable life; and, as this chapter of our history closes, to consider what future chapters should hold.

Originally a British colony, the modern state of Queensland has had a connection with the monarchy since its birth in 1859. An early proposal that the new colony be called Cooksland was overturned by the Colonial Office in London in favour of 'Queensland'. The new colony was named very deliberately and consciously for the then British monarch. That connection flourished under Queen Elizabeth II during the 20th and early 21st centuries. It is a connection that has stood the test of time.

There is no doubt that the Queen herself and the monarchy she embodied provided not just a thread but indeed an iron cable of continuity and stability that have held both Britain and the Commonwealth in good stead—from the rebuilding of Britain after World War II, through the political disruption in Britain in the last quarter of the 20th century and to the significant geopolitical changes that have occurred in more recent years.

As Australia's head of state, Queen Elizabeth fulfilled the role with dignity and an obviously genuine interest in our country and nationhood. Queen Elizabeth and members of the Royal Family have visited Queensland on many occasions: in 1963, during her second visit to the sunshine state, she visited the iconic Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary and a Gold Coast surf carnival at Coolangatta; she was here for milestones like the Silver Jubilee tour and the 1982 Commonwealth Games and Expo 88; in 2002 she was back in Queensland to open the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting on the Sunshine Coast. By the time of her last visit, she was in her mid-80s. No-one can question her dedication to what she saw as her duty.

In my own electorate, in 2022 the City of Gold Coast marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the official opening of the Jubilee Walkway, one of many jubilee events across the nation. The Gold Coast's Jubilee Walkway recognises Queen Elizabeth's enjoyment of walking as an exercise and her desire that jubilee celebrations should promote this activity. The walkway, which runs along the iconic Gold Coast Oceanway, links Philip Park at Main Beach—named for Prince Philip—and Queen Elizabeth Park at Coolangatta. It features interactive signs at key locations where walkers, cyclists and runners can scan a QR code for facts about Queen Elizabeth's coronation, paired with stories about our beautiful local area.

As Australia is a constitutional monarchy, our sovereign is our head of state but also so much more. We knew Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor not just as the Queen but also as a daughter, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. We saw her experience many of the life events that we are all familiar with—the joys that come with having children and watching them grow, marry and have families of their own. We have also seen the Queen bear, with courage and dignity, the difficulties that life has dealt as she has supported her family through marriage breakdowns and divorces, and the consequences of poor choices and regrettable actions, through to tragic and untimely deaths including that of her husband of 74 years, Prince Philip.

Yes, the monarch moves in a different sphere from the rest of us, but the highs and lows of life are known to us all and, in an age of mass media and an interest in celebrity, many of us have felt a connection with Queen Elizabeth that could not have been experienced in an earlier era.

The British monarchy as an institution has evolved as society has changed and grown, and we have seen this ourselves during the reign of Elizabeth II. It will continue to change and no doubt will continue to be a foundation of British society. It is not wrong to ask, at this turning of the page of history, whether our own story will continue to be written in quite the same way. Many would argue that the role is more symbolic than real in the 21st century and that the monarch is a figurehead with, at best, little relevance to many Australians in the past, and no meaningful role to play in our future.

Whether or not our stories now diverge, we acknowledge the extraordinary place that Queen Elizabeth holds in our shared history and, at this particular time, we set down our appreciation for her unwavering sense of duty and generosity of spirit across the seven decades of her reign.

Your Majesty, on behalf of the people I represent, the people of the Gold Coast from Southport, Ashmore, Benowa, Keebra Park, Bundall and Molendinar, I most humbly thank you for your 70 years of faithful and dutiful service to our city, our state, our nation and the Commonwealth.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.05 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British and Commonwealth history. Throughout her long life and during 70 years of dedicated service, she is remembered most for promoting goodwill, respect and tolerance, qualities she herself embodied. Her death united monarchists and republicans alike in tribute to the profound impact she personally had on the modern world.

Media headlines reported the significance of Her Majesty's death, punctuating the sentiment felt around the world: 'The world mourns the death of Queen Elizabeth II'; 'Our hearts are broken'; 'A pillar of duty and devotion'; 'End of an era'; '70-year reign was a symbol of stability in a shifting world.' There is nothing I can say here today that has not already been said or written, but one article that did resonate with me was by Andrew Sullivan who said—

Queen Elizabeth was an icon, not an idol. She never rode the tide of acclaim or celebrity. She never pressed the easy buttons of conventional popularity.

The most famous woman in the world subordinated everything to the role she was meant to play. She was a symbol of service before self, service to her country and to the Commonwealth, a symbol of patriotism, civility, stability and continuity—virtues sometimes lacking in society today.

She was more than just an image on currencies and postage stamps. Those who knew the Queen described her as a seasoned diplomat, a wise confidante and adviser to world leaders. Hopefully her legacy will continue to influence leaders to be more selfless, lift and promote communities to be inclusive, empower minorities to strive for equality and inspire young minds to see beyond limitations.

Born in 1926, young Princess Elizabeth Windsor at the age of 13 became famous for more than her title. She gave an address to the children of Britain at the start of World War II to reassure them that all would be well. A number of years later she proved her willingness to rewrite the history books and was the first monarch in 1,000 years to serve full-time in the armed forces, working as a truck driver and mechanic during the Battle of Britain.

Many of my constituents and I fondly remember the excitement of Her Majesty's visit to the Hyatt Coolum in 2002 where she opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, an institution of her creation designed to achieve unity and solidarity, equality and fairness, peace and harmony—much like the Commonwealth Games since 1930.

During her reign the Queen demonstrated her will was not for power and created the modern democratic monarchy. Her Majesty decolonised several countries including: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Africa. She was the first British monarch to address the US Congress in 1991, reformed the monarchy's finances in 1990 to pay taxes and reduce spending, helped to pass the Commonwealth Act that changed succession to the Crown from gender to lineage, supported racial justice including working behind the scenes to condemn the South African Apartheid system, visited over 110 countries and supported close to 4,000 charities around the world.

In the weeks since her passing, leaders and communities of 14 Commonwealth realms of which she was the head of state and 54 independent members of the Commonwealth of Nations, which accounts for one-third of the world's population, reflected on the security and stability she brought to their countries, such was the magnitude of her loss. In a time when some people say monarchies across the world seem to be losing public appeal, Queen Elizabeth is remembered for steering the British monarchy into a path of continuous relevance and impact.

At her coronation Her Majesty proclaimed—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

Thirty years later she reminded us of this, when she said—

When I was 21, I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.

Finally, towards the end of her life, when she grieved the loss of her husband Prince Philip, Her Majesty reassured and comforted a world besieged by the coronavirus pandemic saying, 'We will meet again.' My sincere condolences and best wishes to her family and all who were touched by her love and compassion. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I offer my sincere condolences to King Charles III and all members of the Royal Family for their great loss. I was honoured to pay my respects on behalf of the people of my electorate and the Redlands coast here in the Queensland parliament by signing the condolence book and by attending a condolence service at St John's Cathedral. As I took an oath to serve Queen Elizabeth II, today I extend that oath and swear my allegiance to King Charles III. God save the King.

MPs in this House and around our nation have spoken on many aspects of her life. I note those many broad and appropriate contributions. I want to focus on an aspect of her life that is often not spoken off—the personal faith of Queen Elizabeth II. In my opinion, Queen Elizabeth was one of the most significant Christians and Christian leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries.

We can only fully understand her popularity, how she served for so long and with such distinction, how she sustained herself in that service if we understand the place of faith in her life and service. It is instructive for us today. She held a devotion that went well beyond the ecclesiastical duties she performed as head of the Anglican Church.

Elizabeth was raised in a Christian household by her parents, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. They ensured that Elizabeth and Margaret attended church weekly, read their Bibles, said their prayers, and her father was known to sing hymns to his daughters at bedtime. While she was raised as a Christian and experienced the love of God as a child, in her teenage and young adult years she clearly adopted her parents' faith as her own. Her own personal faith in Christ was important to her and to her motivation to serve others. This was evidenced in a speech she gave in 1952, prior to her upcoming coronation. She said—

... I want to ask you all, whatever your religion may be, to pray for me on that day—to pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.

At the coronation, the Archbishop of Canterbury anointed her and said these words—

Be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over the peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern ...

This commenced the extraordinary life of service that lasted more than seven decades.

The importance of her faith to her life and service was regularly expressed in her famous Christmas speeches broadcast across the world and listened to by millions that she was known to have written herself. In her famous Christmas broadcasts she celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ as the saviour of the world but also her personal saviour. Let me read a few choice excerpts. In Her Majesty's 2021 Christmas message—her last Christmas message—she stated—

It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus—a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith.

In her 2014 Christmas message she said—

For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, whose birth we celebrate today, is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role-model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none.

In her 2013 Christmas message she said—

For Christians, as for all people of faith, reflection, meditation and prayer help us to renew ourselves in God's love, as we strive daily to become better people. The Christmas message shows us that this love is for everyone. There is no one beyond its reach.

In her 2012 Christmas message she said—

This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.

We can go through Christmas message after Christmas message—there are many other examples I have here—to see her personal reflections and her personal expression of her love for God and the centrality of the person of Christ in her life and service and the inspiration that she drew from him and from God's word. It is instructional for us today. I conclude by saying that Queen Elizabeth II certainly made good on her vow of faithful service, drawing on the strength and blessing of almighty God and Jesus her saviour.

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion on the passing of Her Majesty. I congratulate the many members of the House who have made their contributions thus far in acknowledgement of the great life of the late Queen Elizabeth II. There is no doubt that every individual in this state, country and across the Commonwealth is able to admire the dedication and service the Queen committed across her life.

Grace, dignity, honour, commitment, humility and class; we have heard many of the same words in the last few weeks as we try to describe the Queen's life and come to terms with the end of what was always about the only constant in our lives. Her Majesty gave unwavering stability to an otherwise unstable world. Many have struggled to find the right words to give justice to Her Majesty's service, and I believe that is because the English language has never had to describe someone of such calibre before. Her dedication was not only to duty, family and country but also to God. Her faith no doubt guided her through some of the many trying times the world faced under her reign. In the Queen's own words—

At the centre of our lives ... must be the message of caring for others, the message at the heart of Christianity and of all the great religions.

This statement also showed her maturity above all—that she was able to acknowledge that caring for others should be the basis of our lives, regardless of religion or demographic. Without care for others, we would not have neighbours, we would not have friends and we would not have family as we know it today.

Another statement she made that well and truly resonates with me is one she made well before I was born. In 1990 she said—

Nowadays there are all too many causes that press their claims with a loud voice and a strong arm rather than with the language of reason.

If more causes and people within the modern world heeded this advice I have no doubt we would live in a calmer, more stable and more advanced world than the one we currently live in. That said, much of the stability and the luxuries we have in this day and age are a direct result of the monarchy and everything the Commonwealth has brought the Western World. Without the monarchy and, in turn, Queen Elizabeth II we would not be in this House today and we certainly would not be serving under a Westminster system. Some would argue this would be a good thing, but I am not afraid to thank Her Majesty for her contribution to the system we live and work in and that gave us much of what we have today.

Many members in this House knew no other monarch for our entire lives until her passing. I have the honour of being the last in the Queensland parliament to have sworn an oath of allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II. I was only able to serve in this parliament under her reign for 78 days and for that I am forever grateful. In total Her Majesty served as Queen for 25,782 days—a huge milestone and one that the Commonwealth may never see succeeded. Her service alone lasted more than 2.6 times the time I have been alive, which is something I find difficult to comprehend.

We know that she was fond of Australia and visited a total of 16 times. I have no doubt that she would have loved it even more if she had the opportunity to visit Callide. While she did not visit our towns, she did not have to have a great connection with the many who grew up with the Queen. To my grandparents the Queen was like an older sister in their lives—always guiding them through to the next opportunity.

My grandmother passed away only a week after Her Majesty, and we do believe that she thought that if the Queen was able to go then so was she. My grandparents were married for just over 69 years, and my pop is no doubt struggling without grandma by his side. This is a struggle we all saw the Queen go through after the passing of her beloved Prince Philip, having spent nearly 74 years married.

Now Her Majesty is reunited at rest with her lifelong friend and partner—and rest she deserves after everything she has achieved throughout her life. I express my sincere condolences on the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, who shall forever be remembered as Queen Elizabeth the Great. The Queen is dead. God save the King.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.19 pm): I, too, rise to contribute to this condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a tower of strength and dignity. On behalf of the people of the state electorate of Nanango, I send our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and thank Queen Elizabeth for her extraordinary leadership and contribution to the Commonwealth, including this great state of Queensland.

My first memory of the Queen, or knowing about the Queen I daresay, was at Guluguba State School when I was part of the illustrious recorder band. I think there were only 31 kids at the school and probably 15 of them were in the recorder band where we played 'God save the Queen' on our recorder. That was some time ago. I am ageing myself particularly.

It was in March 1954, just two years after her coronation, that the Queen and Prince Philip visited regional parts of Queensland including Toowoomba, Oakey, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. Her Majesty always showed a genuine interest in regional Queensland. In turn, the people of rural and regional Queensland have always appreciated the Queen's commitment to visiting our communities when she travelled in Australia.

She was due to visit earlier in her travel itinerary in 1954. However, Queenslanders had expressed fears that the heat and humidity in February might prove intolerable for the Queen and impact upon the outdoor activities proposed for the visit. After representations from the premier at the time—Vince Gair—the tour organisers agreed to alter the dates in the hope of more agreeable weather in March. It was at a parliamentary luncheon right here held in Brisbane on 10 March that the premier talked of our major rural industries including wool, sugar, beef and dairy, as well as the coalfields of Blair Athol and the Callide Valley.

I also want to thank the *South Burnett Today* who published a regional Queensland tribute to Queen Elizabeth. One of the stories they published was a reflection by the Hon. Warren Truss, a former deputy prime minister of Australia, who was just six years old when he saw the Queen visit in Toowoomba in 1954. He vividly recalled the drive from his family's Kumbia farm, near Kingaroy, to Toowoomba when the road was long, winding and at least half unsealed. He said—

We stood on a street corner where she was going to go past. She came around the corner and she waved ... and that was it. It was all over in a few seconds.

Although the Truss family thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime event, Mr Truss's life in politics meant he would meet her several more times.

The local Anglican Dioceses of Kingaroy collated a condolence book for their parishioners to sign. Robyn Lenton of Kingaroy wrote—

She was a gracious lady and there's no other word for it. She did her duty, but she did it with grace, and she didn't do it begrudgingly. She had a smile on her face. She said this is my job, this is what I do and I love it.

To Robyn Lenton of Kingaroy, I do not think I have better words for Her Majesty than yours. I was pleased to sign the condolence book at Government House and lay a wreath on behalf of the constituents of Nanango. Thank you, Your Majesty, for 70 years of dedicated service. We will all miss you. May you rest in peace.

I wish to acknowledge and reaffirm my allegiance to King Charles III. I also want to quickly tell a story about when I met King Charles. It was at Government House here in Brisbane on the occasion of his 70th birthday, so everyone in the room was 70 bar me. I was the leader of the opposition at the time and the government assumed that would be a good event for me to attend, as is right and proper. When the now King Charles III came up and greeted me, his words straightaway were, 'Oh, well, you're not 70.' With that, I was completely taken aback because I was not quite sure how I was meant to react to that. I did say something like, 'Well, thank you for noticing.' With those short words, I would like to say may Queen Elizabeth the Great rest in peace.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.24 pm): It is with a heavy heart that I rise to support the condolence motion and send my condolences to His Majesty King Charles III and the entire Royal Family from the people of Toowoomba North and, of course, from me personally.

My experience with the Royal Family is different to most in this place because I grew up in the United Kingdom and the man who raised me, my stepfather, was very much a royalist. I have attended often Trooping the Colour. I have seen the Queen and had the Queen pass by on several occasions. On one memorable occasion in 1977 when I was on holiday in Weston-super-Mare we lined up for hours and she stopped and spoke. Honestly, amongst all the cheering and everything else, I could not really tell you what she said, but I appreciated that she was trying her best.

I think it is really important that we celebrate the world's longest serving public servant. Her role was to serve all of the people of the Commonwealth. For 70 years and 214 days she did that in a dignified, humble, wise and stoic way and showed dedication to the duty and service of everybody in the Commonwealth that she loved. We can only imagine and remember back to when we were 25. That was when her 70-year reign began.

I think it is important to understand the woman she was in terms of all of the public events that she had to do. We all know what it is like to be in the public sphere for the brief moment that we get to serve and represent the people of our electorates. This was not a role she was born to. This was a role that she inherited because of the abdication of a King. At 21 she declared—and I will read it, even though others have—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

But I shall not have the strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join in it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

I think it is really important because that shows the nature of this young lady in a world that was dominated by men in politics, in a world where we had seen empires fall and rage against each other. She brought a sensible, humble, dignified, calming hand to not just Great Britain, not just the United Kingdom, but to all the realms of the Commonwealth so that Australia could grow and fill itself and get to a different place of self-autonomy. Winston Churchill made a comment about the Crown which I will also read—

It is natural for Parliaments to talk and for the Crown to shine. Well do we realise the burdens imposed by sacred duty upon the Sovereign and (their) family. All round we see the proofs of the unifying sentiment which makes the Crown the central link in all our modern changing life ...

It is very important to me that the institutions that make up this place and the institutions that make up our court system, our police and our military have a monarch that is a unifying force. It is not politically divisive. It is not something where we disagree. It is clear that it is a unifying element of our culture and of being Australian. I think her attitude towards the Indigenous population here in her latter years expresses that as well.

For her life of dedicated service I do not think we can truly express our gratitude, but the stability and comfort that Her Majesty brought to everybody should be celebrated. Her long service—70 years and 240 days—is an exemplary life well led. With that, I send my condolences to the Queen's family and I pledge my allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III. Long live the King.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.29 pm): It is a great privilege to speak on this motion to honour the life of Queen Elizabeth II and extend my condolences on behalf of the people I represent. The institution of the Crown looms large over our state. It is in a literal sense what defines us as

Queenslanders because, of course, our state is named after a queen. That queen was Queen Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, who suggested the name—in her own honour, of course. Although her late Majesty never visited my beautiful part of the Gold Coast, she was an enduring constant in the lives of so many Queenslanders and was greatly respected by so many people in my electorate.

For millions of younger Australians with British heritage like myself she seemed like some very public and widely shared version of your own grandmother. Queen Elizabeth II's service will be unsurpassed. No other British monarch will match it. She will surely be remembered as one of the most successful monarchs in history because of the way in which she performed her role. When you think about it, in many ways the monarchy goes against all logic and reason. In what other aspect of our lives would we accept a hereditary position being passed on automatically like this—other than, of course, the father-son and now the father-daughter rule in the AFL—but Queen Elizabeth II made it work. She was such a powerful anchor for so many governments around the world always being there as a known quantity. She was a source of stability in a turbulent world.

Never before in history has the world seen changes like we have in the seven decades of her reign and the century in which she lived. When she first acceded to the throne the United Kingdom was an Empire. She became head of state for 32 countries. The Queen did not stand in the way of decolonisation: she in fact helped facilitate the transition of this Empire to a diverse multicultural United Kingdom and broader Commonwealth. When a desire or question arose in one of those nations about whether an hereditary monarchy on the other side of the world should be their head of state the Queen did not advocate to remain and accepted the will of the people in those areas. By the end of her reign she was head of state for fewer than half the number of nations she was at the start, but it still covered a staggering one-seventh of the world's land area and over 150 million people.

The first prime minister she dealt with was Winston Churchill and the last Liz Truss. What a contrast between those two! What an extraordinarily historical living link the Queen provided between these two very different eras: a man born in the mid to late 1800s and a woman born in the late 1900s. I think it is worth reflecting that even in her final days she was still performing her duty by swearing in the new prime minister. In those last photographs of her at Balmoral she looked frail. She was clearly unwell, but she was still smiling as she swore in yet another prime minister.

She is also probably the first person in history to have her entire life recorded in some form: from when she was a child through to her radio broadcasts and taking on these immense responsibilities as a young woman as the television age was just beginning all the way through to this modern era of social media. The Queen approached her role with dignity and respect, and that service is something we can all acknowledge and appreciate. That is true even for so many people like myself who passionately believe that Australia should become a republic. Despite my views on how our system of government should best reflect our modern nation, I very much respect how she served and the length of her exemplary service. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

I will conclude by congratulating His Majesty. As the shadow environment minister I want to acknowledge King Charles III's decades of environmental advocacy. From writing to the prime minister as a young man about dwindling salmon numbers in Scottish rivers to appearing at last year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, our natural world is clearly something he is passionate about. In particular, he has used his public position to call for greater action on climate change and prevent the loss of biodiversity. I wish him well in his new role.

 **Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON)** (2.34 pm): On behalf of the people of my electorate of Mirani and Australian South Sea Islanders, I extend my sincere condolences to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's life was dedicated to service, including to Australia and the state of Queensland, and she will be remembered with deep affection. Queen Elizabeth II touched the lives of countless Queenslanders from every walk of life during her visits to Australia through the decades. When Her Majesty the Queen passed away on 8 September after her 70-year reign as Australian's head of state we joined the rest of Queensland, Australia, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning to mark the end of a life devoted to duty.

Throughout her reign Queen Elizabeth II exemplified service and grace and inspired the respect of people from across the world. The Queen's reign from 6 February 1952 spanned prime ministers Sir Robert Menzies, Harold Holt, John McEwen, John Gorton, William McMahon, Gough Whitlam, Malcolm Fraser, Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, John Howard, Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison and recently Anthony Albanese. Significant events included Her Majesty's

coronation in 1953 and the celebration of her Silver Jubilee in 1977, Gold Jubilee in 2002, Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Her Majesty celebrated being the longest serving royal with her Platinum Jubilee, the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Over the course of her record-breaking reign the Queen witnessed unprecedented social, cultural and political change and travelled extensively throughout the Commonwealth. These are some interesting facts you may not know about Queen Elizabeth II. She was born 21 April 1926. She was not born in a palace; she was born in a townhouse—17 Bruton Street in the Mayfair neighbourhood of London—that belonged to her Scottish maternal grandparents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore. Queen Elizabeth II was the first female member of the Royal Family to become a fully active member of the British Armed Forces in 1945. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a second subaltern and learned to drive and service vehicles. Five months later she was promoted to junior commander. On Victory in Europe Day she joined the street parties in London, inconspicuous in her military uniform. As the monarch the Queen was head of the British Armed Forces.

She received more than 2,500 wedding gifts when she married Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1947. Since rationing was still in force in the United Kingdom after the Second World War members of the public from around the world sent tinned food—which was redistributed to people in need—and nylon stockings. She was the first monarch to be crowned in a televised coronation ceremony. For the first time, cameras were invited into Westminster Abbey to film the ritual—except for the sacred anointing of the monarch with holy oil. An estimated 277 million people around the world watched the coronation on television, many purchasing their first television set for the occasion.

When a youthful Elizabeth II acceded to the throne in 1952 she was hailed by English newspapers as 'a fairytale queen, the hope for our nation'. Here was the new Elizabethan age that promised to chase away the shadows of postwar gloom. Elizabeth herself seemed to have kept her feet firmly on the ground. 'Frankly,' she intoned in her second Christmas broadcast to the nation, 'I do not myself feel at all like my great Tudor forebear, who was blessed with neither husband nor children, who ruled as a despot and was never able to leave her native shores.'

Both Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria set the bar high as icons of female leadership. Elizabeth II did not have to contend with all of those concerns over female weakness that troubled previous ages when might equalled right. Twentieth century monarchy meant she was constitutional sovereign of a democratic United Kingdom. She took on an awesome array of responsibilities, including: head of state and the legislature; head of the Church of England and Armed Forces; head of state of overseas realms and head of the Commonwealth; not to mention chief ambassador for the UK and the figurehead of a top tourism brand.

There is no doubt that the Queen has presided over revolutionary times socially, politically and technologically. Now even the monarchy is on Facebook. I am grateful for all that Her Majesty achieved during a remarkable life. On behalf of the Mirani electorate, we offer our sincere condolences to the Royal Family, recognising that their loss was also felt by so many people here in Queensland and across the world. I will fondly remember Her Majesty. It has been my honour to serve as her representative in Queensland.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.39 pm): It is an honour to speak on this historic condolence motion for Queen Elizabeth and express my deepest sympathies and that of my electorate to the King and his family and congratulate King Charles on his accession. Although expected, the news of Queen Elizabeth's passing was a shock. I felt the deep sadness that many across the world felt. Upon reflection, I believe that we feel her loss because her legacy was so great.

Not by sword or might but by dignity and loving service is how the Queen reigned the nation and the Commonwealth. She was a fine example to the world. We only saw glimpses of the Royal Family's life and the Queen's life. We saw family holidays in Balmoral where Prince Philip attended the barbecue. They might have been set-up photos, but it is a true reflection of a wonderful family that was an example to others.

The Queen was calm and steadfast and full of grace through times of tragedy as well. Whether it was wars or crises or her own family tragedies and difficulties, she remained that steady hand, unwavering and true. Our leaders today can take much example from that of the Queen's—duty and service above oneself. Her calmness and stability was there always. In her response to the threat of the recent pandemic, she calmly told the world that, while we may still have more to endure, better days will return, we will be with our friends again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again. Once again, she was calm and steadfast.

The Queen and Prince Philip were very fond of Australia. They were great friends to Queensland. Their many visits and their public affection for Australia were shared through the media. There are many personal stories, including that of my family when they were able to catch glimpses of the Queen during her visit to Toowoomba.

Many words are used to describe the Queen—loyal, a dedication to duty, a commitment to service. That calmness and stability was always there and it is a reason why our Constitutional monarchy and Constitutional democracy are successful and why they have made our country so great.

The Queen's final legacy was to train and see the smooth transition of the crown to King Charles. He will have his own style but he has already given a great commitment of service from his own oath. May the King's reign be long and happy and filled with dignity and service, like that which he has been taught. Rest in peace, Queen Elizabeth the Great.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.43 pm): On 8 September, the world mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96. As a community, it brings us comfort to know that she passed peacefully surrounded by her family and her beloved corgis at her Balmoral home. In commemoration of her exemplary life and on behalf of the people of Currumbin, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family to whom Her Majesty was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Throughout her wonderful life, Her Majesty was an inspiration and an example to all. In the words of His Majesty King Charles III—

Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing.

We have seen this over the last month. We have witnessed an outpour of magnificent and powerful tributes in honour of her life. Her Majesty was our Queen. She was an exceptional leader, and she was a monarch who had a real and profound connection to our Commonwealth. At just 14 years old, a young Princess Elizabeth made an official radio broadcast in 1940, addressing and empathising with English children who had to evacuate to escape the bombing of British cities. As a Princess, she became the first female member of the Royal Family to join the armed services as a full-time active member. Here she learnt to drive and to maintain vehicles. Two years later, on her 21st birthday, she was appointed Colonel in Chief of the Balaklava Company of the 5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. It was during her service and her time in Cape York, South Africa, that she pledged to devote her life, whether short or long, to the service of her people. As His Majesty the King has said—

That was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life. She made sacrifices for duty.

Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss.

In her life of service we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress, which make us great as Nations. The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign.

During her reign as Queen, Her Majesty visited Australia on 16 occasions. One of these visits is firm in my mind, not because I was there but because I have heard about it from my mum and my grandparents many times. In February 1963 the Queen sailed into Sydney Harbour on board the yacht *Britannia*. My grandparents, mum and her seven siblings were also on a boat in Sydney Harbour, waiting for a glimpse of the Queen. The Queen's royal yacht sailed past them and my grandparents have never stopped talking about it.

Then on 7 March 1963, our beautiful Coolangatta Beach played host to Her Majesty and the then Duke of Edinburgh. It was a wet and rainy day, but it did not stop locals from lining the streets in droves, piling onto the walkways, edging to get a glimpse of our Queen Elizabeth. The rain did not keep the smiles away either, and it certainly did not drown out the cheers of celebration as Her Majesty attended a royal surf carnival on Coolangatta Beach which saw a spectacular march of over 500 surf lifesavers from clubs ranging from Cairns to Yamba—all marching for the Queen. It is recorded that the Queen enjoyed the surf carnival so much that she overstayed the itinerary schedule by 20 minutes—and that is an extraordinary thing in itself. In the months preceding the royal visit to Coolangatta, thought was given to how the event could be commemorated, and our very own Coolangatta chamber of commerce, as it was called then, suggested that the foreshore be named after Her Majesty. The proposal was adopted by council and the Queen viewed the surf carnival at Coolangatta from Queen Elizabeth Park.

For seven decades, Her Majesty served our great country, and the Commonwealth, as our head of state. Her Majesty's jubilees reflect her unwavering service to all Commonwealth nations since her coronation. It was just a few months ago that Her Majesty celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. She became

the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of tireless service to the Commonwealth. We are so grateful to have the Jubilee Walkway just around the corner from us, starting in Queen Elizabeth Park, to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Throughout Her Majesty's life, she dutifully kept all the promises she made with dignity and respect. She diligently provided the Commonwealth with unwavering devotion and service through periods of profound change, and she served as a paragon of continuity during times of uncertainty. To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I give a final message from our Currumbin electorate: thank you for your extraordinary 70 years of service. Your Majesty will always hold a very special place in the hearts of the people of Currumbin. We enjoy the democracy we have today because of your dedication to our country and your commitment to prospering our Commonwealth. You truly exemplify what it means to live a life of service, dedicated to duty, faith and family.

Your Majesty, may you rest in eternal peace, alongside your strength and stay. Vale, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. God save the King.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Seldom in history have we seen a more dignified monarch and a more decent human being than Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. While it was a shock to hear of her death so quickly after meeting the new British Prime Minister Liz Truss, the Queen has left behind a legacy that will never be surpassed. Her rule was nothing more than extraordinary. For 70 years, she was the symbol of the Commonwealth and a shining light of dignity. Her life exemplified service to the people above oneself.

We all have witnessed the tributes from across the world, from the laying of flowers and wreaths, the lighting of candles, speeches from world leaders, both friends and those across the divide, and a state funeral that was watched by many across the world. This is a testament to her character and the great affection felt by so many for this much loved lady. Her 70 years and tens of thousands of public engagements most likely will never be surpassed by any current or future monarch.

In her early years, she developed a love of horses and the simple life in the countryside. However, fate had other ideas. The abdication of her uncle and her father's reluctance to accede to the throne in 1936, thrust the then 10-year-old Elizabeth into the limelight. A mere four years later, a teenage Elizabeth served the people of Great Britain and the Commonwealth in World War II, initially by radio address and then later as an army mechanic and a truck driver.

At age 25, she succeeded her father on the throne. She inherited a rapidly changing realm and a steadily shrinking empire, yet she never yearned for a return of the empire. Knowing that we could not live in the past and that we all had to forge a path differently, she devoted much of her time to serving and strengthening the Commonwealth. This included how the monarchy conducted itself. Above all, she exemplified our understanding of a modern constitutional monarch, namely that she believed it was her duty to serve the people, rather than to rule from a place of power and privilege.

The Queen had a deep affection for Queensland, visiting our state on eight occasions, including my region of the Gold Coast. This included opening the Brisbane Commonwealth Games and visiting many regional areas. Her deep sense of humour was well-known. Whether it was enjoying a marmalade sandwich with Paddington Bear or jumping out of a helicopter with James Bond, her gentle good humour will always remind us of the value of a good sense of fun. Although we are saddened by her passing, we are comforted in the knowledge that she has gone for a well-earned rest, alongside her beloved husband.

On behalf of the residents of the Theodore electorate, I wish His Majesty King Charles III a long and successful reign. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.53 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.53 pm.

ATTENDANCE

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