



Speech by

**Dr DAVID WATSON**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Hansard 29 February 2000

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Death of Mr B. P. Hansen**

**Dr WATSON** (Moggill—LP) (Leader of the Liberal Party) (9.56 a.m.): I rise to speak on the condolence motion for the late Brendan Hansen moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Hansen was a former member of this House as the State member for Maryborough, a former Federal member for Wide Bay and former alderman for the Maryborough City Council. Mr Hansen was a shipwright, locksmith and carpenter before being elected as a member of Parliament for the Australian Labor Party. He was, I understand, actively involved as a campaign director for several Queensland Labor candidates during the watershed election of 1957. Mr Hansen was elected as an alderman for the Maryborough City Council in 1961. That same year, Mr Hansen contested the Federal seat of Wide Bay and won it, entering the House of Representatives in December that year. In his maiden speech, Mr Hansen spoke vigorously about the needs of the Wide Bay area, including better transport and water infrastructure. It appears that some issues never change.

In 1974 Mr Hansen lost Wide Bay, and returned to local government in 1976. In 1977 Mr Hansen successfully contested the seat of Maryborough and held it until 1983. In his maiden speech to the Queensland Parliament, Mr Hansen recounted his experiences of the Great Depression. He believed that Governments had to provide jobs in times of hardship. In fact, he stated that if a project was physically possible, it should have been financially possible.

Mr Hansen was a man who left school during the Depression and watched as his peers lined up for jobs, 20 or 50 in a queue. In 1939 most of those young men joined the Army as an escape from unemployment. It is in fact a cruel irony that unemployment remained stubbornly high during the 1930s and the solution lay primarily in another world war. Mr Hansen found it a great pity that money could be found in a time of war, but not in times of peace, for important developmental projects.

When he was elected to the Queensland Parliament, Brendan Hansen became part of a very small group of people who have served at all three levels of Government. That in itself is quite a commitment to public service.

On behalf of the Liberal Party, I join with the Premier and other members in passing on our sincere condolences to his wife, Moira, and his family.

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