



Speech by

**Mr D. BRISKEY**

**MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND**

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Hansard 1 May 2001

**COUNCILLOR EDDIE SANTAGIULIANA**

**Mr BRISKEY** (Cleveland—ALP) (11.40 a.m.): The residents of the Redland Shire are still in a state of shock following the sad passing of their Mayor, Councillor Eddie Santagiuliana. Even though Eddie suffered a massive heart attack and died nine days ago, we have not come to terms with the fact that he has gone. We expect to see him as we always have, attending functions in his beloved shire. For Eddie the shire was his life. He was first elected to council in 1982 and became mayor in 1994. For 19 years Eddie served the people and became known as the people's mayor. His commitment to his position as Mayor of the Redland Shire was never questioned. He was a person who truly cared about everyone in the shire and about the shire's future. As local resident Don Seccombe said, Eddie's life revolved around the wellbeing of the Redlands and the people who lived within it.

Even though Eddie was born in Italy, he lived most of his life in the Redland Shire. He arrived in Australia as a nine year old with his parents, Cecilia and his late father, Ferdinando. Eddie's parents farmed at Wellington Point and later at Thornlands, first growing vegetables and later roses. Eddie married Carolyn in 1971 and they had three sons, Christian, Nicholas and Nathaniel. At Eddie's funeral last Friday Eddie would have been extremely proud of his boys; they spoke extremely well and were a credit to their father.

I first met Eddie in 1986, when I was a teacher at the Thornlands State School. And I am very pleased to see students from the Thornlands State School in the gallery today. Eddie was the local councillor for division 3 and was heavily involved in the P&C at the school. His boys attended the school and he was always at the school supporting them and their school.

I got to know Eddie on a personal basis when I was elected as the member for Redlands in 1989. I soon realised just how well he was regarded in the community. When he was elected mayor in 1994 I began to see him on many occasions each and every week. At every function I attended Eddie was there. And if he could not attend, Carolyn would be there in his stead. He attended many more shire functions than I did, as his shire includes three state electorates. He was a tireless worker.

Eddie's community involvement began as an 18 year old, when he became secretary of the Redland District Strawberry Growers Association. He was also chairman of the Queensland Fruit Growers Cooperative for many years and chaired

the Redlands Strawberry Festival for more than five years. In addition, Eddie served as president of the Redlands Asthma Awareness Group and was also a director on the board of the Queensland Asthma Foundation. He also served as president of the Cleveland and District High School Parents and Citizens Association and was at one time vice-president of the Thornlands State School Parents and Citizens Association.

Eddie was a member of many sporting, cultural and community organisations and was patron of 36 of those organisations. Eddie also participated in the ministerial regional community forums, regional strategy groups, the Logan-Nerang Water Quality Management Committee, the Regional Water Quality Management Committee, and the Redlands Tourism Committee. Eddie was also chairman of SOUTHROC, the Southern Regional Organisation of Councils—a job that he took extremely seriously and one that gave him much pleasure and one that he spoke to me about on many occasions.

At the requiem mass held for Eddie last Friday Archbishop Bathersby quoted from a statement provided by Eddie's family for the funeral service. It stated—

I am aware that in time my memory will fade. They will probably name a bridge or a park or a building after me. That might be nice but I will be just as happy if, every now and again, the people that I loved and who loved me will spare a kind thought and perhaps a prayer for Eddie.

Eddie, we will remember you.

Eddie was a man who achieved much in his too short life. He will be sadly missed. On behalf of my wife, Cathy, and our family, I extend our sincere condolences to Carolyn, Christian, Nicholas and Nathaniel and also to Eddie's mother, Cecilia, and other family members. I also take this opportunity to extend the sincere condolences of the Honourable Nita Cunningham, the Minister for Local Government and Planning, and all honourable members of this House. Eddie, we will miss you.

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