



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

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APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND

Ms Quentin Bryce AO

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (3.23 p.m.): I am pleased indeed to have the opportunity to support the nomination of the appointment of Quentin Bryce as the next Governor of Queensland. I commend the Premier for giving the people's representatives this opportunity to have their say. It is a small step, but nonetheless a significant step in involving the people of Queensland more than they have been involved in the business of government.

I also directly welcome the appointment of Quentin Bryce as the next governor. I have been an admirer of Ms Bryce for many years, but from a distance. I cannot claim the kind of familiarity that, for example, the Minister for Employment and Training has in his role as one of her students many years ago, or other honourable members of this House who have known her more closely than I. Like many Australians, I have admired her from afar. I note all that has been said about her excellent curriculum vitae. There is no need for me to repeat that; it is already on the record. There is no doubt that Ms Bryce has been an outstanding role model for women such as those of my own generation who have dared to push the limits a little bit, to knock on the doors that were previously closed to women.

I also take this opportunity to welcome her appointment, coming as it does hot on the heels of International Women's Day. As the member for Barron River has already informed the House, in Cairns we have a week of celebrations for International Women's Day. We have a feast up there. I have no doubt that I am speaking for the very many women involved in the very many events over this last week in Cairns for International Women's Day when I say that it is pleasing indeed that it will be a woman, and a woman of such distinction, who will take up the job of governor as of July this year.

While recognising the tremendous importance of the contribution that Quentin Bryce has made in affairs relating to women as well as to discrimination and a fair go in this country of Australia, we should be mindful that women still have a long way to go. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the member for Caloundra who this morning spoke so eloquently, clearly and factually about the difficulties that still lie ahead for women not only in Australia but also around the world. It is so that in the appointment of Quentin Bryce we are not simply appointing a woman of great style and intelligence; we are appointing a person who is more than suited to the task.

As the saying goes, Ms Bryce has very big shoes to fill. For some years now I have been a great admirer of Governor Peter Arnison and of his wife, Barbara. On many occasions they have visited Cairns and have always conducted themselves not only with style but also with sensitivity. It is not uncommon for people to feel nervous about speaking to someone who holds a position of such importance. I have seen Governor Arnison and his wife make those people and their families comfortable and enjoy the special occasion. I have seen the hours that they have put in and the effort that they have put in with all of us around the state of Queensland. I, for one, will miss the Governor and Mrs Arnison when their term is up.

I hope indeed that Quentin Bryce is able to meet the same standards while, of course, putting her own individual stamp upon the job. I have no doubt that she will be stylish and that she will make the adjustment to this position of diplomacy as well as leadership for this fair state of Queensland. I do indeed welcome her appointment and I look forward to welcoming her to Cairns on the first occasion that she has the opportunity after taking up her appointment in July.