



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard Tuesday, 10 May 2005

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

DEATH OF HON. SIR JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN

Mr KNUTH (Charters Towers—NPA) (10.57 am): It is my great honour to speak here in parliament today in memory of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. It is also my great honour to be here in the same House in which the late Premier governed Queensland for almost 20 years. Without a doubt, Sir Joh will be known as the greatest Premier of our time. Consecutive governments now and in the future will ride on the back of his vision that can be clearly seen across the state today.

Sir Joh was a nation builder who made decisions. He opened Queensland's coal reserves for mining, put water infrastructure in place, built power stations, developed industries, abolished death duties, was responsible for keeping state taxes off fuel and provided an efficient, free hospital system. Sir Joh was a strong believer in the family, and it was for this reason that he opposed Sunday trading. The former Premier was a solid leader who stood by his words, and for this reason the people of Queensland knew where they stood with him during his time in power. Because of Sir Joh, Queensland was the envy of all states and his legacy will be remembered for generations.

Sir Joh was an inspiration. His actions inspired me to enter the political realm, and I believe I can say that for many of my fellow colleagues. My condolences go to Lady Flo and family, and may his legacy be an everlasting legacy.