



Speech by


## Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

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### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: MR WH GLASSON

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): William Hamline Glasson, better known by his friends and his colleagues whom he served with as Bill, was born in Toowoomba on 25 February 1925. During his primary school years he was educated by correspondence, as the Premier said, before boarding and completing his senior at Church of England Grammar School in Brisbane. By 1943 Mr Glasson had joined the Royal Australian Air Force and served his country as a pilot of Kittyhawks during World War II. He was discharged from the RAAF on 1 July 1947. Shortly after, Mr Glasson married Shirley Margaret Lockhart and raised three sons and one daughter whilst working on the land as a jackaroo, a drover, a station manager and later a grazier at Winton. It was during his time at Winton that Mr Glasson commenced his political life as a councillor on the Winton shire council. Mr Glasson was elected to the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 7 December 1974 for the National Party and served the parliament and the people of Queensland in a variety of different roles, most notably as minister for lands, forestry, mapping and surveying, as well as minister for police during the Bjelke-Petersen government and he was, of course, as the Premier mentioned, an esteemed member of the Queensland Parliamentary Bowls Club.

My father, Henry, had the privilege of serving in the parliament with Bill Glasson and had a great affection and respect for him as a parliamentarian. According to my father, Bill was part of the old breed of National Party members where a handshake meant a deal and a person's word was gospel. He was liked by both sides of the House and was a very popular man, always willing to stop for a chat and lend a hand if he could. He was followed in this House as the member for Gregory by the current member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, and was very good friends with the Johnson family. Henry attended Bill Glasson's funeral and says that Vaughan's tribute to Bill was very moving and touched all in the large crowd that packed St John's Cathedral.

The proudest moment, and the real highlight of Bill's life, as his daughter pointed out at his funeral service, was when he was asked to lead the Tagalong Ride from Longreach to the Ekka Showgrounds in 2002. This was part of the Year of the Outback celebrations and it was a real tribute to Bill by the RNA. This was a ride of around 1,300 kilometres. He did this in the middle of winter. He traversed the outback of Queensland, camped out with his fellow riders and entertained them around the campfire with his stories and bush poetry.

Bill's heart was in the bush. He was a true bushman who always stood up for the interests of his community. From all reports, Mr Glasson was a humble man, not one to big-note his personal or family achievements. He was indeed a man of the bush, strongly representing his consistency on issues of deep importance to him, such as legislative reforms to convert family sized leases into perpetual title leases and advocating for strong and better hospitals in Longreach and Barcardine. Upon retirement, Mr Glasson's passion for the bush did not fade and he continued to support campdraft and horseracing, in particular at the Gregory Turf Club and Winton Rodeo Association.

Mr Glasson passed away on 20 March 2012, aged 87 years. As I have said, my father was amongst the hundreds of mourners who attended the service to celebrate his life at Saint John's Anglican Cathedral on 28 March. I wish to place on the record the opposition's appreciation for the years of service that Mr Glasson gave to the people of Queensland and extend our deepest sympathies to his family.