



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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## ADJOURNMENT

**Wensley, Hon. P**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.15 pm): I wish to place on record the gratitude of the opposition and, I believe, of every other member of this House and our thanks for the service of the Hon. Penelope Wensley, the former Governor of Queensland.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Ms Wensley led a distinguished career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prior to her appointment as Governor of Queensland in 2008. During her time with DFAT she served as Ambassador for the Environment, as well as Ambassador to India, France and the United Nations. This service and her impeccable diplomacy made her a natural fit to be Governor of Queensland, a role that she filled with vigour, dignity and grace.

Ms Wensley travelled the length and breadth of Queensland. She was passionate about the arts and she was passionate for all Queenslanders no matter where they lived. During the six years that Ms Wensley served as Governor, she was a source of strength and support for Queenslanders, particularly those affected by natural disasters. After the devastating floods of January 2011 and the destruction of Cyclone Yasi in February of that year, Ms Wensley took it upon herself to travel widely and visit those affected. During that period, Ms Wensley met with people whose lives had been upended by the indiscriminate force of nature. Ms Wensley comforted people who were picking up the pieces and in her they could find some solace.

Ms Wensley's language skills and experience as a diplomat also came to the fore during this period. The Queensland disasters of 2011 rightly received global attention and Ms Wensley did a number of interviews with overseas news agencies to highlight to them the scale of the disasters. As she said in a speech commemorating the one-year anniversary of those floods—

The interviewees seemed stunned—almost numbed—by the thought that an area larger than France and Germany combined was affected. Just as all around me, outside and inside that church, people were stunned, bewildered and shocked by what was happening.

Ms Wensley helped the world to see the magnitude of the disaster and the depth of our state's sorrow, but she also allowed them to see the strength of our resolve and our determination to recover. Ms Wensley would repeat those efforts just a few years later, as Bundaberg and the Burnett region and other areas dealt with the aftermath of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald.

I would once again like to extend the opposition's sincere thanks and that of the other members of this House to the Hon. Penelope Wensley for her service as Governor of Queensland. I am confident that she will continue to make a significant contribution to public life in our state. We also wish her husband, Mr Stuart McCosker, and their family all the very best.

Ms Wensley often made beautiful speeches about the jacaranda trees. As she went past the first row, Ms Wensley then went and greeted every single staff member and thanked them personally for their service during her time as Governor. I place on record our sincere thanks.