




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Parer , Hon. W, AM

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise in this chamber to pay tribute to the late Hon. Warwick Parer AM, who was a distinguished Liberal Queensland senator from 1984 to 2000. As well as being an outstanding Queensland senator, Mr Parer was involved heavily in the resources and energy sector stemming from his years as a successful businessman in the industry and also a former Howard government minister for resources and energy from 1996 to 1998.

Experienced from his years as a distinguished businessman in the mining industry prior to embarking on a career in politics, Mr Parer brought real life experience and skills to the federal parliament. He will be remembered for, during his time as minister, removing restrictions that shaped the pathway for industry expansion and jobs growth. Years of public service were deservedly honoured on 26 January 2005 when he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia. This honour was to recognise not only his service to the Australian parliament but also his contributions made to the mining industry through policy development, broadening of export opportunities, education and market reform in the energy sector.

More recently, Mr Parer was chairman of Stanwell Corporation Ltd, as well as chairing the board of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation, amongst others. Mr Parer was a committed and active member of the Liberal Party and the Liberal National Party after its inception. Serving as president of the Liberal Party of Queensland from 2006 to 2008, Mr Parer was a staunch supporter of the Young Liberal movement, even being bestowed with life membership in the movement to show appreciation for his keen interest in youth politics. As a former Queensland Young Liberal president myself, I saw firsthand the interest Mr Parer took in nurturing the next generation of political leaders. His passion was infectious for the Liberal Party. Therefore, it was no surprise that his son Justin Parer became a Queensland Young Liberal president in the early nineties.

Since my time in the party organisation, beginning in the late 1980s, I can remember both Warwick and his wife, Kathi, getting involved at a grassroots level, whether by handing out how-to-vote cards or doorknocking with various candidates and MPs over many years. For many years they were both active members of the local Creek Road branch in my electorate of Chatsworth. Warwick provided me with support and mentoring since my election in 2012, even more recently attending an energy forum I hosted last November. At this forum I saw firsthand that Mr Parer was still as keenly committed to the energy and resource sector as ever, contributing to the robust conversation on the evening. His knowledge, indeed, in this public policy area was simply unsurpassed.

The Parer family should be justifiably proud of Mr Parer's achievements and be rest assured that this parliament and, more importantly, Queenslanders across this great state will not forget the incredible contribution and legacy he leaves behind. It was a privilege to have known the Hon. Warwick Parer AM.