



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszcuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: LIVINGSTONE, MR DW



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Donald Wallace Livingstone, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Don Livingstone was a proud Labor man. He was born in Kingaroy on 1 October 1948 and educated at the Ipswich Central Boys School. Don left school at 14, working for a grocery store and then as a labourer at Amberley RAAF base before starting work at the Swanbank Power Station in 1970 where he became a crane driver and a passionate union representative. In 1985, Don was elected as an alderman on the Ipswich City Council and continued to serve on the council until 1990.

At that time Don and his wife, Cheryl, bought and operated two delicatessens in Ipswich, earning him the nickname 'Deli Don'. In 1989 the ALP member for Ipswich West, Dave Underwood, decided to retire, and Don was selected to contest the seat. Don ran a successful campaign at that historic election of December 1989 and took his place in this chamber as the new member for Ipswich West, a proud member of the first Labor government in this state for 32 years. He was re-elected in 1992 and 1995, before losing to One Nation's Jack Paff in the 1998 state election. Never one to give up on his passion and desire to represent the people of Ipswich, Don again contested the seat of Ipswich West at the 2001 state election and was comfortably re-elected. Don cared deeply about improving the daily lives of families in his community. He cared about the homeless. He cared about a reliable water supply for the residents in rural parts of Ipswich West. He cared about building a bridge that allowed the residents of Leichhardt to get home to their families safely, even in the worst of floods. He was passionate about health services, an electric train service to Rosewood, and for reliable and well-resourced local emergency services, to name but a few issues close to his heart.

Don retired at the state election in September 2006, having served for just over 14 years during two stints as a member of this House. Under the Goss government, Don was deputy government whip from 1992 to 1995 before serving as government whip. After the change in government in February 1996, Don then served as opposition whip. He also had a long association with the parliament's public works committee as a member and then chair. I also understand that Don was a long-time member of the Queensland Parliamentary Bowls Club and was a key member of Queensland's team at many of the annual interstate parliamentary bowls carnivals held across Australia. He played with parliamentary bowling mates of all political persuasions including Pat Purcell, Ken Vaughan, Warren Pitt, Graham Healy and the member for Mirani, Jim Pearce.

Don Livingstone passed away on 15 October 2015 at the age of 67, and his funeral was held at the North Ipswich Reserve Corporate Centre on 21 October. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Don's funeral but the Minister for Education officially represented the Queensland government at the funeral.

Together with many hundreds of Don's family and friends, Minister Jones was also joined at the funeral by Minister Miller, together with numerous other current and former members of this House, members of the federal parliament and councillors of the Ipswich City Council.

Don served his community with distinction, and I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Don gave Queensland and to his beloved electorate. Don spent his final days in Ipswich Hospice; where he was still advocating for his local community. During that time, he met with the mayor of Ipswich and told him about the lack of car parking at the facility and the dire need for a pedestrian crossing. Until the very end, Don was advocating for and passionate about his community. On behalf of the government and all members of this House, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Don's wife, Cheryl, his children, Graham and Karen, his beloved grandchildren and Don's other family and friends.