




Speech By
John-Paul Langbroek
MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Record of Proceedings, 24 March 2015

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): On behalf of the opposition I rise to support the nomination of the member for Nicklin, Peter Wellington, for the role of Speaker of the Queensland Parliament. With the House poised on a knife edge, it makes sense for this opposition to support an Independent MP for this role rather than surrender one of our own which could offer this minority government a possible majority on the floor.

I note the comments of the Premier and the Deputy Premier in their speeches of nomination, but I think there is an important point to note. The member for Callide has often said that the parliament is a place where governments come to be tested and tested by us, the opposition. The Speaker has the vital role of ensuring that that purpose can be served to its fullest extent. It is a house of debate; it is not a lecture theatre. I also note that the member for Nicklin's immediate predecessor, Neil Turner, served in the chair with distinction, and I trust that he will seek to emulate him.

There has also been significant discussion about the precedents regarding the appointment of an Independent MP to this role. I note the honourable Premier referred to the Speaker in the government of Digby Denham. I have been pleased to receive the research brief from the Parliamentary Library that tells me that, prior to the party system that we currently have—prior to the turn of the 20th century—there were a number of Speakers who did not have clear party affiliation: Gilbert Elliott, Arthur Macalister, Fredrick Forbes, William Walsh, Albert Norton and Henry Edward King.