



Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: RANDELL, MR JH



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.32 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late James Henry Randell, a former member of the parliament of Queensland and minister of the state; and
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.

James Henry Randell—fondly known as Jim—was born in Mackay on 13 August 1928. With strong interests in the sugar and beef industries, Mr Randell was active as a member of the Australian Brahman Breeders' Association, a member of the Mackay Regional Development Bureau and chairman of the National Party's sugar policy committee.

In 1976, Mr Randell was elected as a councillor on the Broadsound shire council, centred on St Lawrence. In 1979, he became chairman of the council, serving in that position until 1982. In 1980, the then National Party member for the state seat of Mirani, Tom Newbery, decided to retire from the parliament and Mr Randell was selected by the National Party to replace him. He held the seat of Mirani until he decided to resign from the parliament on 31 March 1994.

Mr Randell served as a temporary chairman of committees from 1983 to 1986. From 1982 to 1987 he was a member of a number of committees, covering portfolios that would have been close to his heart, such as primary industries, local government, mines and northern development. Following Mike Ahern's appointment to the position of premier of Queensland in December 1987, Mr Randell was elevated to cabinet and became minister for local government and racing. In September 1989, with the elevation of Russell Cooper as premier, he was appointed minister for works and housing.

Following the defeat of the National Party in December 1989, Mr Randell served as opposition spokesman for administrative services during 1990 and 1991 and was opposition spokesman for the sugar industry during 1991 and 1992. Mr Randell was also a member of the public works committee from 1990 to 1992 and was a member of the select committee for members' interests from 1992 to 1994.

Mr Randell also served as a member of the parliamentary service commission from 1992 to 1994. Some members may recall that the parliamentary service commission, which existed from 1988 to 1995, was an all-party commission of seven members who were, among other things, responsible for determining major policies to guide the operation and management of the Parliamentary Service. My father, Henry, also served on the commission with Mr Randell during that time.

Sadly, James Henry Randell passed away on 21 June 2016, aged 87 years. A funeral service to commemorate his life was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Mackay on 27 June 2016. Mr Randell, born in Mackay and passed away in Mackay, was a strong advocate for that region for all of his life. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Mr Randell gave to his community as a local and state government representative. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Randell's family and friends.