




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2017

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: SIMPSON, MR GL

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.43 pm): I too rise to add my support to the motion moved by the Premier as we farewell someone who was a real inspiration to me and someone whom I came to call friend. I first met Mr and Mrs Simpson when I attended my first Nicklin state electorate council meeting of the National Party. I shudder to think that that was in our attempts to get rid of you, Mr Speaker. Hopefully, today you will give me some latitude in continuing to reflect on those early days.

Mr SPEAKER: You have the floor.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. From that time on it is fair to say that Mr Simpson was always incredibly supportive of my participation in the party, particularly in policy development and then, as things advanced, in my transition to becoming the representative for Glass House. That friendship, support and encouragement only grew as his daughter Fiona, the member for Maroochydore, served as my mentor during that campaign and subsequently in my first term.

Mr Simpson is proof that even Victorians can become great champions of this state of Queensland. I admired his faith. I admired the way that he lived out that faith in his service to his community, to this parliament, to this state and in everything he did. I admired the servant leadership that Fiona and others have spoken of today. I admired his care for our local environment. I too reflect on the fact that it is not just one side of politics in this state that can lay claim to some great environmental achievements. Indeed, many occurred under the National government. Fiona mentioned the expletive-laden comments that Gordon received from a colleague about being a 'blankety-blank greenie'. I can assure Mrs Simpson that that would not happen in the LNP anymore and I say so as a former minister for the environment.

There was no such thing as a quick visit to Mr Simpson. Earlier this year, I popped around to drop off something to Gordon and ended up being there for 45 minutes. You did not ignore his input or his advice, because to do so would be at your peril. He was always very knowledgeable, especially about politics and, more importantly, about the community on the Sunshine Coast. He understood that community and what it meant to serve that community. As others have said, he was always very practical. Whilst a lot of that manifested itself in his engineering talents, it was also evident in the advice that he gave me as a representative of the Sunshine Coast.

I felt both great sadness and great honour when the Leader of the Opposition asked me to represent the LNP at what was truly a celebration of Mr Simpson's life. I do not think I have attended a funeral that was so positive and affirming of the contribution an individual has made to his family, to his friends, to his community, to politics and to this state. I too give my condolences to Mrs Simpson and Bruce, Helen, Jock and Fiona and to their extended families. He will be missed.