




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Mackenroth, Hon. TM

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): I rise today to pay tribute to the late Terry Mackenroth. I feel particularly privileged to make my contribution from the seat in this House occupied by Terry for so many years as Queensland's deputy premier, treasurer and minister for sport. Terry Mackenroth was a Labor man, with all that that entailed. He was a champion for the vulnerable and the disadvantaged in our community and was ceaseless in his efforts to improve the lives of the working men and women of this state. He was never confused by or distracted from the purpose to which he committed his political life—the advancement of the ideals of fairness and equity and the pursuit of public policy that made the lives of people better. He came to this House knowing what he wanted to achieve and dedicated himself to delivering it. His was a life of public service—a 28-year commitment to the rigours of political life that found its motivation in his conviction that it is through the processes of this House that meaningful change is made. His accomplishments are well known and the merits of his character already celebrated in the public lamentation of his loss, so I take this opportunity today to reflect on what he gave to our state through the career he chose.

Every member of this House will know that the privilege of serving in it comes at a cost and that, whilst we undertake it willingly and gratefully, it demands a degree of sacrifice. It is no place for the half-hearted. Terry took things head-on and never wavered in his commitment to that work to the day he retired. We on this side of the House will always remember him for that. He went hard at the hard issues and never shied away from a fight. In the end he found a fight he could not win, but he fought on with the same resolve and fortitude that had always distinguished his career. In the end, whilst we share in the regret of his passing and all grief is personal, today we remember the members of his family whom he has left behind—his wife, Mary, his daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and all those who loved him and were most closely connected to him.

Terry represented the electorate of Chatsworth on the south side of Brisbane with distinction, and the calibre of the service he delivered to his community was manifested in their decision to keep on electing him. There is no more valuable trait in politics than authenticity, and Terry's political success was due in no small part to the fact that Queenslanders saw him as one of them, and he never gave them cause to doubt it.

Terry's blood was maroon and his love for his state never left him. Queensland is poorer for the loss of Terry Mackenroth but infinitely better for his life. This morning we bid farewell to a man who made his life count and who stood up for what he believed in—a man who believed in a better deal for all Queenslanders.