



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Mackenroth, Hon. TM**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the Hon. Terry Mackenroth. Losing a loved one brings a depth of sorrow that seems overwhelming and without end and I send my most genuine thoughts to Terry's wife, Mary, Terry's brother Gary and Terry's daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and their husbands, some of whom are in the gallery today. The family of a politician has no choice but to share their mum or dad, their grandad or grandma with all Queenslanders, and I thank you on behalf of the people of this state for the sacrifices that you made during Terry's almost 30 years in politics.

As a relative newcomer to this House I cannot claim to have known Terry as well as those opposite and their predecessors, but I did have reason to meet him on a number of occasions. In this place of partisan politics, I can honestly say that Terry was always very encouraging, warm and respectful to all of us. Terry commanded the respect of both sides of politics. That kind of respect is rare and is only won by having an enduring passion and dedication to Queenslanders and to the beliefs that first brought you into political life. However, those qualities alone are not enough. That passion must be backed by relentless hard work and the unflinching courage of your convictions. Terry combined all of these things, and it is not surprising that he amassed a list of achievements as long as your arm both inside and outside politics.

I have read references to Terry as a much loved Labor hard man, but I suspect that, like many hard men of politics, his family would know a very different Terry—hard on the outside with a softer centre. Reading Terry's maiden speech provides an insight into what drove him. Raised in a housing commission home, he always pushed for a fairer deal for those less fortunate. He spoke of the need for small business people to be supported and protected with the development of a department of small business and the importance of grassroots organisations like school P&Cs.

From Terry's first speech in parliament on 20 April 1978 he went on to serve for 28 years and for most of that time at the most senior levels of the Goss and Beattie governments, as leader of the House, and as a minister in 10 portfolios including treasurer for four years and deputy premier for five years. He was the architect of five state budgets. He oversaw the implementation of the landmark Fitzgerald reforms, the construction of Suncorp Stadium, the redevelopment of the Gabba, implementation of the SEQ plan and the introduction of the Integrated Planning Act and he was a strong advocate for public housing and boarding house tenants. These are just a few of Terry Mackenroth's political achievements.

As we have also heard from the Premier today, Terry's achievements were not just confined to this House. He loved his Rugby League, with his passion for the grassroots of the game leading him all the way to the board of the QRL where he served as a director for 11 years. He was also mad about Queensland netball and I read after his passing a quote from netball legend Vicki Wilson that again shows his willingness to be a voice for people and pursuits that needed one. Vicki said that, having coached and umpired netball for many years, Terry truly thought netball deserved higher status on the

Australian sporting landscape. After a career serving Queensland in this place, Terry went on to continue to serve Queensland on government boards, helping to guide major companies such as Devine and Springfield Land Corporation.

Some in political life crave notoriety and recognition for their efforts. My understanding is that this was not the case with Terry Mackenroth. Former Labor premier Peter Beattie said of Terry that, despite his key role as deputy premier, he never sought the limelight and was happy to be the stage manager rather than the star. Terry 'The Fox' Mackenroth was a true giant of the Queensland Labor Party and I salute him for a life well lived and well loved. I had the honour of attending Terry's funeral with other LNP members such as Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and former premier Russell Cooper. On behalf of all of the LNP in the state opposition, I pass on our sincere condolences to the family.