




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2018

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Warburton, Mr NG

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): On behalf of the opposition, I join with the Premier in this motion of condolence extended to the family of Neville George Warburton. I send my most genuine thoughts to his family—his son, Ross, and daughters, Kym and Sandra—as they sit in the gallery here today.

As honourable members have heard, Mr Warburton was the Labor member for Sandgate from 1977 to 1992. In his long career that spanned both local and state politics, Nev developed a reputation as a down-to-earth man and as simply a good bloke. Nev was an electrical fitter and mechanic before his career in politics and assistant secretary to the Electrical Trades Union in Queensland.

Nev was also interested in local government matters. He was an alderman of the Brisbane City Council from 1976 to 1979, representing the Bramble Bay Ward. Nev had a keen interest in sport, particularly Rugby League and bowls, as the Premier has indicated. In his maiden speech in parliament in 1978, Mr Warburton advocated for the local fishing industry and for creating work opportunities within that industry. While in opposition, Nev held numerous positions, including opposition spokesperson for culture, national parks and recreation. He served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and then succeeded Keith Wright as opposition leader in August 1984—which, as the Premier has indicated, is a very hard job.

He approached the 1986 election with a number of new policies, including the introduction of random breath testing and a plan to ban uranium mining in Queensland. Nev handed over the Labor Party reins to Wayne Goss following the 1986 election. In the Goss cabinet, he served as Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and then later as Minister for Police and Emergency Services. He retired from parliament in 1992.

As we have heard today, Nev's achievements were not confined to this House. He was a patron of sport, school and community organisations within the Sandgate electorate. He was also an executive of the surf lifesaving movement. As I said, he fought for the local seafood industry during his time in this parliament, and it was fitting that he enjoyed that pastime of fishing during his retirement. His love of sport endured, as he played bowls on the Sunshine Coast, including, as the Premier indicated, as a valued member of the parliamentary bowls team.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the opposition's thanks for the many years of service he gave to this House and the Queensland community. On behalf of the opposition, I extend my sincere sympathies and that of this House to Mr Warburton's family and friends.