



Speech By
Colin Boyce
MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 16 May 2019

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Kippin-O'Connor, Ms VA

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (9.47 am): Mr Speaker—

He was the Red Creek overseer, a trusted man and true,
Whose shoulder never left the wheel when there was work to do;
Through all the day he rode the run, and when the lights grew dim
The sweetest wife that ever loved would wait and watch for him.
She brought him dower of golden hair and eyes of laughing blue,
Stout heart and cunning bridle-hand to guide the mulga through;
And when the mob was mustered from the box flats far and wide
She loved to mount the wildest colts that no one else would ride.

That is the opening verse of the epic *Riding of the Rebel* by Will Ogilvie. I like to think it was written about the sister of the man from Snowy River, the quintessential bushwoman. Victoria Kippin-O'Connor was such a woman. She was kind and gentle. At the same time, she was a fierce advocate for and a loyal and devoted supporter of rural Queensland. In fact, she was the first woman from the National Country Party to be elected to any parliament in Australia. She stands beside Irene Longman, the first woman to be elected to the Queensland parliament; Sallyanne Atkinson AO, Brisbane's first female lord mayor; Joan Sheldon AM, Queensland's first female treasurer; Yvonne Chapman, the first woman to hold a cabinet position; Dame Annabelle Rankin DBE, the first Queensland woman elected to the federal parliament; Naomi Wilson, the first female parliamentary secretary in Queensland; Joanna Lindgren, the first Indigenous female to represent Queensland in the federal Senate; our own Fiona Simpson MP, the first elected female Speaker in Queensland; and, of course, our very own effervescent and persistent Deb Frecklington MP, the first female leader of the Liberal National Party in Queensland.

Vicky Kippin-O'Connor stands with these women. They all represent conservative politics in Queensland and Australia. Vicky Kippin-O'Connor was first. She was a leader, a groundbreaker, a trailblazer. She went where no other would go so that others might follow. She lived in a time when giants walked the earth, and, what is more, she was one of them. She stood among them and held her ground. I have the greatest admiration and respect for women who arrive at their destination, achieve their goals, show the way—all by their own strength and merit. They are there because they are the best—by no other way or influence.

I would like to acknowledge Vicky Kippin-O'Connor's extended family who are with us today in the gallery, especially her sister, Anita Lethbridge. We have known each other well and have spent many days at council sitting side by side. In fact, we are neighbours at Taroom, where I live. Anita and

family, what I speak now is for you, for Vicky is gone and we are left. The history books will remember Vicky as a summit on the mountain range of achievement on which we might climb. On behalf of the 56th Parliament of Queensland, ave atque vale—hail and farewell—Vicky Kippin-O'Connor 1942-2019.