




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 24 November 2020

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.09 am): It is my privilege to second the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and nomination of the member for Mermaid Beach to the high office of Speaker in this House. The office of the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament carries with it significant duties. They are ceremonial, procedural and administrative in nature. The role itself is premised on the position of the Speaker of the House of Commons. As Queensland lacks an upper house I would argue that the role of Speaker is even more vital to the operation of the democratic life of our state, not just for ensuring the necessary scrutiny of legislation but also for the role of interpreting and applying the standing orders to proceedings in this House. This House is Queensland's own forum. It is a place where ideas are tested, often vigorously, and for the government's agenda to be challenged by the opposition and the crossbench. The Speaker bears responsibility for how that testing of ideas is conducted. It is for these solemn responsibilities that the opposition believes the member for Mermaid Beach is perfectly equipped.

The honourable member was born in Townsville and enjoyed a varied career history prior to his election in 2006. He worked for Price Waterhouse in Sydney and spent time on the family cattle and sheep station at Richmond. Surely herding sheep is the ideal preparation for the high office for which he is nominated today! Upon moving to the Gold Coast the honourable member established business interests across the coast. He cherished a distinguished local government career, serving as the mayor of Albert shire and the Gold Coast city council.

Since his election to parliament, the member for Mermaid Beach has served in a variety of roles, most notably and with distinction as a Leader of the House. Most recently, in the last term of this parliament, he served as deputy chair on the Economics and Governance Committee and as a member of the Ethics Committee. As the Leader of the Opposition has already said, if the member for Mermaid Beach were a betting man he would understand the long odds that face him today.

On that point I note the nomination of the member for Mulgrave for this high office. I also note the dignity and fairness with which the member for Mulgrave discharged his duties during the last term of the parliament. I know that, should he be elected again today, he will continue to display the same impartial and respectful approach in governing this House and the same fine character in his personal dealings with honourable members in this House regardless of their political inclinations.

However, that being said, we know that as a former Leader of the House the member for Mermaid Beach stands ready to work for the good management of the business of this House. This House universally recognises him as a valued and colourful contributor to debates. He has an abiding personal interest in the history of our parliament and our democratic institutions. His integrity and wisdom are unquestioned and his ascension to the role of Speaker would be well and truly deserved. He would bring impartiality and objectivity to this high office, as he has done from the very beginning of his parliamentary career.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition has already quoted from the member's outstanding maiden speech and I am going to go there too. He said in this House—

I pledge to you, Mr Speaker, my commitment to uphold the dignity, tradition and respect of parliamentary debate in this House during my whole term of residence.

Those words, which he has lived by for the past 14 years, together with his outstanding legacy of service to the community, say everything about the character of the member for Mermaid Beach. I commend the honourable member to the House.