




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Mulherin, Hon. TS

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.56 pm): It is an honour to support this condolence motion. As we have heard, Tim Mulherin spent 20 years representing his community of Mackay and then, after his retirement, continued to serve on the local health board and various community organisations, including Harrup Park Country Club.

The privilege of serving in this chamber is afforded only to a few of us. To serve on behalf of your community is a privilege that I know was never lost on Tim Mulherin. Tim Mulherin was one of the first Labor Party members that I met in this House and was always up for a chat and, of course, the giving of advice. Many terms could be used for Tim Mulherin, but the one I like the most is affable. There are many others though, such as good natured, happy, gracious and gentleman.

On behalf of a few members who are no longer in this chamber, I wish to rise and make a short contribution to this condolence motion as it refers to one of my earliest but most memorable memories in this House. As a newly elected, bright eyed MP I was sat beside—and I am not sure who to blame for this—the then member for Lockyer, Ian Rickuss. On the other side of me was the member for Warrego, Howard Hobbs, and just in front of me was Vaughan Johnson. They were all full of advice and between them and Tim Mulherin there were many words of advice and encouragement in language that is no longer used or is probably inappropriate—but that, I think, was coming from the members from our side not from Tim.

One of my first memories is of Tim coming up to me and sitting down and saying something like, ‘So, you’re from Guluguba. Do you know Don Stiller?’ I said, ‘Yep, that would be my dad.’ As soon as there was a spare seat and probably no-one really better to chat to Tim would wander over and sit beside me and he would always want to discuss someone from the region or from my home town or connections that we had. It was obvious that we had something in common and that was the advancement of rural and regional Queensland. Of course, as a new MP I was always a bit nervous that our whip would call me out for consorting with the enemy, but Tim would always say that he was comfortable on either side of the chamber and I think it had something to do with our whip being Vaughan Johnson so we were pretty safe.

After Tim’s retirement and during the sugar marketing debate, when I was the shadow minister for agriculture, I was reminded of Tim Mulherin’s support for the sugar industry. His family connections with the sugar industry are long and I know that the outcome that was achieved to give a fair go to sugar farmers, even though it came from the opposition, would have pleased Tim Mulherin. Not only was he called Mr Mackay, he was also called Mr Sugar.

Tim was a true gentlemen and a true old-school Labor man. Whilst Tim Mulherin had three different ministerial titles, I am sure that his first title sums him up for the Labor Party, for his friends and for his colleagues: it was minister for rural and regional Queensland. Tim was an advocate for all things rural and regional and a great local representative. Tim Mulherin, we thank you for your service. My heartfelt condolences are with your wife, Erin, and sons, Declan, Liam and Rory. May you rest in peace.