



Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Mulherin, Hon. TS

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.33 pm): After almost nine years in this place, this is one of my first contributions on a condolence motion. It is really important for me to have this opportunity because I feel very strongly about providing a tribute to Tim. I echo the sentiments of the member for Clayfield. They were very well placed. Perhaps I did not know Tim as well or spent as much time with Tim as many others here, but my interactions were so meaningful that I feel compelled to say something, particularly after having discussions with the member for Hill, who had spent a lot more time with him.

My first interactions with Tim were when I sat on a committee with him. I was an impressionable, nervous newcomer here. My observations were that he was a bloke who stuck it out when there were only seven Labor MPs. He turned up every day and took it. He turned up and turned up. Despite what was said, he kept his rational response. It was something I really admired and still admire to this day, and remember. It left a big impression on me.

Even when I would say something that he would entirely disagree with—I felt like I really did not count for much in that parliament—he was one of the most experienced blokes in the House who would take time to talk to me to try to understand where I was coming from or to give me his advice on what he thought of that issue. For someone new, that leaves a big impression on you. On top of all of that, he would still contact you after he left parliament to say g'day and catch up. It took him a while to find a connection through my family, but he did eventually—through my uncle.

He was very effective. People in my electorate knew—and Shane commented to me—about the great job he did after Cyclone Yasi as the agriculture minister. He turned up to whatever was going on in the electorate and took his medicine. When I became aware of politics, I would see him out there. He would always front up and do the decent thing like that. He was very mature.

The other observation I made was that Tim, as we would say back home, was not a big-noter. He was never trying to be anything up there. Despite all of that experience, he was still very well grounded, and that speaks to me of why he stayed such a strong representative of Mackay and was embedded in that seat. He was truly a man of the people and someone who had compassion for his fellow man and was trying to do some good.

It was with deep sadness that I heard of Tim's passing. I really appreciated his objectivity, the way he approached parliament and the respect with which he treated everyone in this House no matter what position you were in. He was an inspiration to a new, young bloke. I certainly did not feel that I counted for much. I would like to pay tribute and give our best wishes to the Mulherin family. Tim, rest in peace.