




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 24 November 2020

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.01 am): Madam Presiding Member, I rise to second the nomination of the member for Mulgrave as the Speaker of this House and to make some brief comments on the nomination. It has long been the practice in this House that the government of the day provides a nominee for Speaker, giving due consideration to the person who will afford this vital role the respect and diligence that it warrants.

As a new member of this House in the 56th Parliament I valued the counsel and advice afforded by the member for Mulgrave in assisting me and others in carrying out their duties, as well as an understanding of the rules and standing orders that apply to proceedings, even though I questioned some of these and will continue to do so.

The role of the Speaker is more than just presiding over the proceedings of the House. The Speaker makes decisions relating to the role of members of this House within their communities and that affect our capacity to undertake that role. Like myself and many others, the member for Mulgrave represents an electorate outside of Brisbane and understands the additional issues that affect members who represent in this House away from their electorates. His understanding of this contributed to the inclusive way he performed the role of Speaker during the 56th Parliament. His endeavours to bring about improved behaviours in this chamber are appreciated, and I will continue to advocate for them on behalf of Queenslanders.

Members sitting on the crossbenches have an important role to play in holding the government to account and ensuring that the views of those we represent are heard. When we speak we should do so with credibility and informed objectivity. Robust debate is essential. Passionate advocacy is vital. Being respectful of each other in this House and respectful of the institution of the parliament will lead to much better outcomes sought by Queenslanders. We still have a way to go. However, the member for Mulgrave has demonstrated that he is prepared to make this a reality. I have every confidence that the member for Mulgrave will continue to fulfil the role of Speaker in an inclusive, fair and consultative way, showing respect for all members equally and for the practices and conventions of the House. That is why I second the nomination of the member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt, as Speaker of the House. I urge all members to support his nomination which, in turn, demonstrates our commitment to meet the expectations of our communities regarding this parliament and the behaviours and debates within.