



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Sullivan, Mr JH**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.38 am): I rise this morning to offer my contribution to the condolence motion moved by the honourable the Premier in memory of the late Jon Sullivan. Jon was a great Labor man. He was tenaciously loyal, he was a fierce advocate and he was a genuine representative of his community. Jon always called it as he saw it and you were never left in any doubt about where he stood on the big issues of the day. He was very kind and encouraging and supportive of new and young members of the Labor Party.

Jon was first elected to this House, as has been noted, in 1989 as one of the 24 new members who delivered a majority for the transformative Goss Labor government. There are two Queensland: the world before Wayne Goss and everything that came after. That is because it is difficult to overstate the impact the Goss Labor government had on the state of Queensland. In his first speech in this place, Jon spoke in anticipation of the Goss reform agenda when he said—

There is an aura of history surrounding this government, a mood that I find very agreeable. We have been entrusted with Government by a State that expects a fresh start. The Honourable the Premier offered just that to the people, and I look forward to my role in the delivery of that commitment.

As part of the Goss government, Jon championed the historic legislative, social, economic and cultural changes introduced and enacted by the first Queensland Labor government in 32 years. These reforms included: far-reaching electoral reform, including the destruction of the notorious Bjelke-Petersen gerrymander; the establishment of an office of women affairs and, later, the women's policy branch; record investments in health care and hospitals, schools and public housing, all of which had been left languishing for decades; important and long-lasting public sector reform including the modernisation of the Queensland Police Service, the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the full-throated support of the Criminal Justice Commission and the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission. All of this was done within a framework of responsible and disciplined fiscal management. Jon was a tenacious and vigorous advocate for all of those reforms.

While Jon contributed greatly as a member of the Goss government, his greatest contribution, as has been noted in this place, was as a fierce advocate for his local community. Jon loved the community he represented. When he was first elected his electorate spanned from Bribie Island to Caboolture North and into the Sunshine Coast hinterland. He loved the personal connection of people, getting out and about, talking to local residents and hearing directly from them about the issues that mattered most to them. While Jon left this House in 1988, his political life was not over. History tells us Jon had a knack of knowing the right time to take up the fight for the Labor movement he held so dear, the movement he entrusted to deliver the policy, the programs and the reform measures that so many in his community relied on.

In 1989 he did it for Queensland and in 2007, when the call came to stand up again to champion the Labor cause and his community, Jon once again re-entered the political fray. Jon, never afraid of the hard work that came from being a candidate, delivered again for the Labor movement, winning the seat of Longman to help deliver a federal Labor government led by a Queensland prime minister, Kevin Rudd.

Jon meant the world to his family and I know his family meant the world to him. To Jon's wife, Carryn, a former member of this place who brought the same fighting spirit and love of community to her own role as a member of the House, to his daughters, Casey and Tai, and to his extended family, we express our condolences on your loss.

The mark of success for any of us in this place is the legacy that each of us leaves. For Jon, it is the community that grew immeasurably and prospered from the investment in health care, education and infrastructure he secured for it and the people whose lives were improved immeasurably by his tireless advocacy. Vale, Jon Sullivan.