




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (4.53 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to this condolence motion for everybody's friend, Duncan Pegg. I want to start by acknowledging the Pegg family and acknowledging the grief that I know you are living with now and will live with for quite some time. It is a deep belief in my culture that the veil between the living and the spirit world is very, very thin and that ceremony, just like what we are doing here today, is an important part of understanding that veil and knowing that you can reach the other side through love and story. Our ceremonies, and I look to the member for Cook and the member for Bundamba, range from smoking ceremonies to dance to, of course, the way that we interact with each other around the story of the person that we are seeking to see on the other side. It is my absolute hope and prayer that your time of grief is short and that the veil remains very thin for you and that this ceremony today becomes part of your understanding and your belief that he is just there and that the love and the story are the things that will keep you close.

Like many others from the class of 2015 I had the great pleasure of meeting Duncan for the first time. We share a boundary between our electorates—we are right next door to each other—which meant that I got to share many a stage with Duncan, lots of school awards nights and various banquets. We ate a lot of food together given our combined multicultural communities that we represent. As everybody has shared today, he has always been an incredibly politically astute person. I had seen him in action many a time. He was also an incredibly cheeky person. All of those times when we would share a stage or be at a banquet, somehow he would always manage to lean over and make some comment that only I could hear. He would be laughing at me and I would need to be pokerfaced to not reveal what he had just said to me about somebody in the crowd. It was incredibly painful, let me tell you. That was his way.

One of the things that I am always in awe of is the way that he managed the Illaweena Street issue. We have heard about that a couple of times this afternoon. He was able to absolutely manifest the wrath of the Stretton mums to a point where they absolutely, still now, are ready to jump up in an instant if there is anything to do with Illaweena Street. He would laugh about that so much. He loved it. He loved the fact that it was the way that he was going to win this issue for them.

One of the things since his passing that has struck me is that when I go to the events that we used to share many a time I have families come up to me to talk about how they met Duncan and the impact that he had on their lives. It reminds me of how many times he had said to me how important family is and how important families are and that he would always be there to advocate on their behalf. He used his own love of his family to see himself in their issues.

Today we have heard so many stories, and I have heard so many stories of people who want to share their interactions with Duncan. I could do that too, but I want to give the family a story when we reflect on this idea of the thin veil between the living and the spirit world. I am a Quandamooka woman

and when I look across Quandamooka—Moreton Bay—sometimes it is like glass and there are times when you can see every single beacon along the way. Those beacons are there to absolutely tell you which way to go to avoid the sand bars, the traps, to see where the deep water is, where the fish are, where you are going to see the abundance into the future. For me all the stories that we have heard today are part of those beacons. Duncan's stories are those beacons that map out for us where the deep water is, where the safe path is, where you will find the abundance. I want to give that story to you because for me that story represents that thin veil. Every time I go to Quandamooka and I see those beacons I will think of Duncan and I will think about how close he is to us and to you in every way. He will be sadly missed, but he is only on the other side.