




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pegg, Mr D

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.58 pm): I wish to firstly acknowledge and pass on my condolences to Duncan Pegg's family—to both Lindsey and Graham and his brothers—and friends in the public gallery this afternoon. Duncan joined the great Labor Party at the young age of 17. He initially joined as a voice against the rise of Hansonism. With the richest multicultural society and community in the seat of Stretton, Duncan no doubt was the right man for that job.

During my time as an official—in fact, during my time as the secretary of the National Union of Workers in the early 2000s—we needed a strong representative for our members' legal affairs. Knowing our members were well served by Duncan while he was an associate at Sciaccas Lawyers put my mind at ease and also that of our members. Without fear or favour he represented our members in WorkCover claims, common law claims, compulsory third-party claims and statutory claims.

When it came to sport, Duncan just could not get enough. He was a tragic. He was the co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Tennis and Cricket. I remember quite well the evening of 1 June 2016—incidentally, the first State of Origin game of that year—while at Sun Moon Lake on a Taiwanese study tour we found ourselves in one of our rooms doing our best to watch the game. As a sports tragic, Duncan was not about it miss it. Somehow he managed to stream the match, and I think the current member for Stretton had something to do with that, so I thank him for that. While the game was being interrupted about every 10 to 20 seconds—you would see it on the 20-metre mark and then later on in the game somewhere they were scoring down the end—the disappointment on Duncan's face became apparent at the conclusion of the game when the Queensland juggernaut rolled on to defeat the Blues 6-4.

There were memorable events on that study trip to Taiwan and I wish to share one of them. Duncan, like me, was a loveable larrikin but had a greater ability to converse in Mandarin. On a trip out one night we enjoyed a meal and we were catching a taxi home. The joke was on the member for Toohey and me. Duncan was seated in the front with the driver providing directions back to our accommodation; Peter and I were in the back. Duncan was engaged in Mandarin taking the mickey out of Peter and me. Apparently the conversation was about what we did and where we were from. After I noticed the driver looking in the rear-vision mirror roaring with laughter my curiosity got the better of me. I asked Duncan, 'What's this all about?' Duncan replied, 'Oh, nothing. I'm just telling him you're a couple on a night out.' I think I can do better than that!

On Friday, 30 April 2021, Duncan announced that he could not continue as the MP for Stretton and a community thankyou and farewell was held at SunPAC, the Sunnybank Performing Arts and Cultural Centre. The venue caters for a maximum of 300 people, but the event was so quickly sold out—within hours—that many people were turned away. Many local, state and federal government members were in attendance, as were many senior multicultural leaders, school leaders, business and

community leaders, members from all persuasions from all three levels of government, as well as former prime minister Kevin Rudd. While the event could have been quite a sombre occasion for those in attendance, Duncan's usual selfless manner kept the audience strong and relaxed for the entire evening. There were many tributes delivered on the evening, including by the member for Rankin, the Premier, many state MPs and cabinet members, as well as Kevin and myself.

Fortunately, on Tuesday, 8 June, the member for Logan and I were able to see Duncan when he was in palliative care. It was a sunny morning; I will never forget it. He had got his hands on an Eels scarf. Both Linus and I grabbed him and took him downstairs to get a bit of sunlight. It was great to be with him two days before his passing. I told him on that day that I loved him like a brother. He reciprocated, saying the same. Despite the fact that he would not need any more brothers, it was great to have the opportunity to pass on my feelings to him that day. Duncan passed away around three o'clock on the morning of 10 June with his father, Graham, by his side. Given that New South Wales beat Queensland the night before I am sure that Duncan, being an avid supporter, passed away with some satisfaction over that result.

Duncan's life was celebrated at his funeral on Saturday, 26 June, at one of his favourite sporting grounds, the Gabba. Once again there were many family, friends and members of the community in attendance who were clearly there to show their love and support for this amazing man whom we lost from this world too young. His legacy for the community of Stretton and the Queensland parliament will be remembered in posterity for years to come. On Thursday, 10 June this year, we lost a warrior from the Labor movement. Don, we also lost a member of the square bear club, but there is time for more recruitment in that regard. Vale Duncan Pegg.