



Speech By  
**Adrian Tantari**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

**MOTION**

**Death of Queen Elizabeth II and Accession of King Charles III, Address of Condolence and Congratulations**

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.37 pm): On behalf of the people of Hervey Bay, I too want to contribute to the condolence motion before us today and send my sincere and profound sympathy to the Royal Family after the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022. As many other members have already said, Her Majesty was for many, if not all, in the electorate of Hervey Bay the only monarch they had ever known. The Queen's reign of over 70 years out of her long 96 years was a testament to her values of service and a desire to lead the Commonwealth throughout her life. As we all know, she continued to perform her duties right up until a couple of days before her passing, which, by all accounts, is extraordinary.

Over the many weeks since her passing I have asked several people in Hervey Bay to reflect on what they felt the Queen meant to them and their overall comments were stability, work ethic, leadership, caring, compassion and a resolute commitment to serve her people. Many said that she emboldened goodness and kindness and gave them a focal point in their lives. Following her passing, my local council, the Fraser Coast Regional Council, opened a condolence book for residents to put in words their own feelings on the passing of Her Majesty. As I read through the many hundreds of messages of condolence, it was not surprising to see the depth of warmth shown by others who have never met the Queen in person as they expressed their sorrow at her passing. Tania, Janine and Rider said—

To our beautiful Queen, you have touched many lives during your reign as monarch. We will always love how gracious you are to everyone and how humble a leader you have been.

A retired colonel said—

In 1959 I swore allegiance to the Queen and continue today now with King Charles. Thank you for your guidance and your dedication.

John and David said—

Thank you. Your life has impacted so many around the world. Well done, Faithful Servant.

The mayor of Fraser Coast Regional Council, Councillor George Seymour, said, 'We can all draw inspiration from her strong, steady and stoic leadership.' Many said her passing was an end of an era, one that we as a community may never see again. Some said she was the last link to a bygone era where time and values were different, where people respected service in its purest form, and they acknowledged the sacrifice of the Queen in pursuit of this goal. While many in this place would not list themselves as monarchists, whatever your opinion or position, it must go without saying that what the Queen was able to reflect to the rest of the Commonwealth was a life of calm, steady service to all.

Currently many talk about what role the monarchy will play in the future for Australia. That is a debate that I am sure will be had in the coming years, but at this time I think it is appropriate that this House, and rightly so, recognises the service of Her Majesty to Australia. What we must remember in all of what has been said about the Queen since her passing is that she was foremost a person like you and I with a family that now grieves her loss as a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

To His Majesty King Charles III, the people of Hervey Bay congratulate Your Majesty's bittersweet accession to the throne and pass on our deepest sympathy to you and the Royal Family. May your grief be tempered by the knowledge of the extraordinary life well lived by Her Majesty the Queen. In closing I will again take a quote from our regional condolence book, from Kim in Hervey Bay, who simply said, 'To the most remarkable woman of our time, it is time for you to rest now. Rest in peace, Ma'am.'