




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

De Lacy, Hon. KE, AM

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.46 am): It is a singular honour to serve as a Queensland Labor Treasurer in a Queensland Labor government. Great modernising, progressive reforms—reforms that transformed Queensland for the better, reforms that are only ever introduced and implemented by Labor governments—are only made possible through the sound economic stewardship of those Labor governments. One of the best examples of this was the Goss Labor government, including the man who was its treasurer for every single day of that government: Keith De Lacy.

After more than three decades of conservative rule, the Goss government came to office facing significant challenges, but it also grasped the historic opportunity presented by that magnificent win in 1989 to change Queensland for the better: to make significant infrastructure investments in schools and public housing; to employ thousands of additional teachers; to build and rebuild public hospitals; and to protect our unique and precious natural environment. To do all of this and more, the Goss government had to assure Queenslanders it had the fiscal discipline necessary to deliver such an ambitious program. To a significant extent, that task fell to Keith De Lacy.

The task was monumental: reform the electoral system; modernise the Public Service; transform policing; and fundamentally improve the delivery of health, education and social and community services—services for so long ignored, neglected and denied to Queenslanders—while at the same time instituting fundamental human rights reforms. All of this had to be done while assuring Queenslanders that the Labor government had a firm hand on the financial tiller, a Queensland public that for years had been fed the myth by the Liberal and National parties that those on the right of politics were somehow more entitled or better able to manage public finances.

Keith De Lacy was able to do so much more than just steer the financial and fiscal ship. With his premier, he set about an ambitious program to bring more major companies and more major events to Queensland. The validation of that strategy is that it is mirrored in so much of what our government—our Labor government—does today. Keith De Lacy was not afraid of confronting difficult decisions. It takes strength and determination for a former tobacco farmer to advocate an increase in the tobacco levy to fund a signature Goss government initiative: a 10-year hospital redevelopment program. As a proud regional Queenslander who had worked in some of our state's traditional industries like agriculture and mining, Keith De Lacy understood the importance of regional development, of having tailor-made plans to support job creation and economic growth in a way that suited the different conditions in each of our regions.

After the Goss government, Keith continued to show his passion for those great strengths of the Queensland economy, serving on the boards of a number of significant Queensland companies, especially in the agriculture and resources sector. Along with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition

and all members of this House, I express my condolences to the family of the late Keith De Lacy. Today we remember and recognise Keith De Lacy's significant contribution to Queensland. Vale, Keith De Lacy.