




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

MOTION

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

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to extend my condolences to the Royal Family following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II last month. I also extend my sympathies to the many people in this state and further afield who were devoted to the Queen and moved by her passing.

As I reflect on this monumental moment in our shared history, it strikes me that the Queen was an exemplar of strong female leadership. She was, no doubt, an inspiring role model for many female leaders. Though, of course, the privilege to serve was thrust upon her by the lottery of hereditary monarchy, it could never be said that she shirked that responsibility. She made stoicism, strength and extraordinary endurance her allies and welded herself to her duties. In doing so she won admiration across generations and far beyond her own shores.

The Queen's longevity as a leader is difficult to grasp. There is a certain disorienting sensation when contemplating the world on her accession in 1952 and comparing it with the world she departed in September 2022. London had barely rebuilt itself after its devastation during the Second World War. Peering at Australian history at the time, we see institutions and relics that are now virtually unrecognisable. At that time, we still traded in pounds and shillings and had yet to embrace our own national flag. Our First Australians were still not counted in the national census and though we had a female head of state we had yet to meet our first female minister. Fast forward to today and the modern Australian political landscape has thankfully forged a confident path away from those anachronistic settings. We are decidedly more sure of ourselves and advancing agendas that could not have been foreseen when the Queen first emerged as our constitutional monarch. During her 70-year reign, she bore witness to fundamental change and even the weathering of the institutions she represented here in Australia. However, she remained a restrained, patient and reassuring presence in our political landscape.

I pay my greatest respect to the Queen's exceptional stamina and dedication and her instinctive attachment to what she saw as her lifelong mission. I also stand here with the people of Cook behind me. I fully recognise that this moment in history has provoked diverse emotional responses from Indigenous communities the world over, including those in the very Far North of this great state. It is right and proper that, in honouring the memory of the Queen, this exemplar of public service and dedication to duty, we also acknowledge that here in Queensland sovereignty was never ceded and the full length of our Path to Treaty has yet to be walked.

There are a multitude of perspectives on the impacts of monarchy and colonialism in this country. One important legacy that we can all be grateful for is our shared ability to raise our voice. For now we acknowledge an extraordinary woman, a powerful leader and a unifying force. We acknowledge the joy the Queen brought to countless millions of people. With her passing, we have lost an archetype of public service and a woman with rare wit and skill to retain the confidence and affection of the public through such a remarkable period of global evolution. If we can somehow draw on her incredible stoicism and embrace of progress, we will be well placed to discharge our own duties here in this place.