



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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## MOTION

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

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.05 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in British and Commonwealth history. Throughout her long life and during 70 years of dedicated service, she is remembered most for promoting goodwill, respect and tolerance, qualities she herself embodied. Her death united monarchists and republicans alike in tribute to the profound impact she personally had on the modern world.

Media headlines reported the significance of Her Majesty's death, punctuating the sentiment felt around the world: 'The world mourns the death of Queen Elizabeth II'; 'Our hearts are broken'; 'A pillar of duty and devotion'; 'End of an era'; '70-year reign was a symbol of stability in a shifting world.' There is nothing I can say here today that has not already been said or written, but one article that did resonate with me was by Andrew Sullivan who said—

Queen Elizabeth was an icon, not an idol. She never rode the tide of acclaim or celebrity. She never pressed the easy buttons of conventional popularity.

The most famous woman in the world subordinated everything to the role she was meant to play. She was a symbol of service before self, service to her country and to the Commonwealth, a symbol of patriotism, civility, stability and continuity—virtues sometimes lacking in society today.

She was more than just an image on currencies and postage stamps. Those who knew the Queen described her as a seasoned diplomat, a wise confidante and adviser to world leaders. Hopefully her legacy will continue to influence leaders to be more selfless, lift and promote communities to be inclusive, empower minorities to strive for equality and inspire young minds to see beyond limitations.

Born in 1926, young Princess Elizabeth Windsor at the age of 13 became famous for more than her title. She gave an address to the children of Britain at the start of World War II to reassure them that all would be well. A number of years later she proved her willingness to rewrite the history books and was the first monarch in 1,000 years to serve full-time in the armed forces, working as a truck driver and mechanic during the Battle of Britain.

Many of my constituents and I fondly remember the excitement of Her Majesty's visit to the Hyatt Cooloom in 2002 where she opened the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, an institution of her creation designed to achieve unity and solidarity, equality and fairness, peace and harmony—much like the Commonwealth Games since 1930.

During her reign the Queen demonstrated her will was not for power and created the modern democratic monarchy. Her Majesty decolonised several countries including: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Africa. She was the first British monarch to address the US Congress in 1991, reformed the monarchy's finances in 1990 to pay taxes and reduce spending,

helped to pass the Commonwealth Act that changed succession to the Crown from gender to lineage, supported racial justice including working behind the scenes to condemn the South African Apartheid system, visited over 110 countries and supported close to 4,000 charities around the world.

In the weeks since her passing, leaders and communities of 14 Commonwealth realms of which she was the head of state and 54 independent members of the Commonwealth of Nations, which accounts for one-third of the world's population, reflected on the security and stability she brought to their countries, such was the magnitude of her loss. In a time when some people say monarchies across the world seem to be losing public appeal, Queen Elizabeth is remembered for steering the British monarchy into a path of continuous relevance and impact.

At her coronation Her Majesty proclaimed—

I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong.

Thirty years later she reminded us of this, when she said—

When I was 21, I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God's help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.

Finally, towards the end of her life, when she grieved the loss of her husband Prince Philip, Her Majesty reassured and comforted a world besieged by the coronavirus pandemic saying, 'We will meet again.' My sincere condolences and best wishes to her family and all who were touched by her love and compassion. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.