



Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Dollin, Mr RH

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.42 am): It is always a matter for deep regret when this House is called upon to express its condolences upon the passing of a former member. Sometimes it seems even more significant when that former member came into this place at a time of significant social, political and cultural change in this state. In this instance I refer, of course, to the passing of Robert 'Bob' Dollin, a former member for Maryborough who entered this House upon the election of the Goss government in 1989. In that capacity, he joined a generation of members who were able to say that they helped generate a range of changes and reforms. Bob Dollin represented the electorate of Maryborough from 1989 until 1998. Maryborough had been represented by the ALP from 1932 until 1971 and by both the Liberal and National parties until Bob Dollin's election. It is interesting to note that Bob Dollin's campaign director in his first election was Brendan Hansen, a predecessor in the seat of Maryborough and the former federal member for Wide Bay.

Bob Dollin was very much a part of his local community. Much of his working life was involved with the timber industry, one of the mainstays of the local Maryborough economy. In his maiden speech in March 1990 he spoke of the need to increase the amount of land available for plantation timber as increased demand for housing put pressure on timber supplies. He spoke at length of the problems for those seeking housing if timber resources were shut up rather than being properly managed and he warned of the activities of those seeking to close the timber industry.

As the member for Maryborough, Bob Dollin was equally vociferous in his advocacy for the other significant industries in the city: engineering, particularly the local firm Walkers; and sugar milling as undertaken by the Maryborough Sugar Factory. In the latter case he drew attention to the potential conflict between the sugar industry and the broader community as competition for scarce land and water resources continued to grow.

Bob Dollin acknowledged that Maryborough was undergoing significant change. The number of factories, processing plants and manufacturers was in decline, unemployment was growing and job opportunities were declining. He expressed the hope that the incoming government would respond to these challenges and restore Maryborough's fortunes. Bob Dollin's time in this House came to an end at the 1998 election when he was one of the six ALP members to lose their seat to One Nation. Despite the premature conclusion to his parliamentary career, he was able to look back with pride on his advocacy for the electorate and its people. I did not know Bob Dollin personally, but I suspect few could summarise his life better than a former colleague from the timber industry who described him on social media as 'a great boss, a great mate and an absolute gentleman'.

The Opposition extends our condolences to Bob Dollin's wife, Verlie, his children, grandchildren—including Penny Liedersdorff who joins us today—as well as his great-grandchildren, and we join in support for this motion.