



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

**MOTION**

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.19 pm): I, too, rise to contribute to this condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was a tower of strength and dignity. On behalf of the people of the state electorate of Nanango, I send our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and thank Queen Elizabeth for her extraordinary leadership and contribution to the Commonwealth, including this great state of Queensland.

My first memory of the Queen, or knowing about the Queen I daresay, was at Guluguba State School when I was part of the illustrious recorder band. I think there were only 31 kids at the school and probably 15 of them were in the recorder band where we played 'God save the Queen' on our recorder. That was some time ago. I am ageing myself particularly.

It was in March 1954, just two years after her coronation, that the Queen and Prince Philip visited regional parts of Queensland including Toowoomba, Oakey, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. Her Majesty always showed a genuine interest in regional Queensland. In turn, the people of rural and regional Queensland have always appreciated the Queen's commitment to visiting our communities when she travelled in Australia.

She was due to visit earlier in her travel itinerary in 1954. However, Queenslanders had expressed fears that the heat and humidity in February might prove intolerable for the Queen and impact upon the outdoor activities proposed for the visit. After representations from the premier at the time—Vince Gair—the tour organisers agreed to alter the dates in the hope of more agreeable weather in March. It was at a parliamentary luncheon right here held in Brisbane on 10 March that the premier talked of our major rural industries including wool, sugar, beef and dairy, as well as the coalfields of Blair Athol and the Callide Valley.

I also want to thank the *South Burnett Today* who published a regional Queensland tribute to Queen Elizabeth. One of the stories they published was a reflection by the Hon. Warren Truss, a former deputy prime minister of Australia, who was just six years old when he saw the Queen visit in Toowoomba in 1954. He vividly recalled the drive from his family's Kumbia farm, near Kingaroy, to Toowoomba when the road was long, winding and at least half unsealed. He said—

We stood on a street corner where she was going to go past. She came around the corner and she waved ... and that was it. It was all over in a few seconds.

Although the Truss family thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime event, Mr Truss's life in politics meant he would meet her several more times.

The local Anglican Dioceses of Kingaroy collated a condolence book for their parishioners to sign. Robyn Lenton of Kingaroy wrote—

She was a gracious lady and there's no other word for it. She did her duty, but she did it with grace, and she didn't do it begrudgingly. She had a smile on her face. She said this is my job, this is what I do and I love it.

To Robyn Lenton of Kingaroy, I do not think I have better words for Her Majesty than yours. I was pleased to sign the condolence book at Government House and lay a wreath on behalf of the constituents of Nanango. Thank you, Your Majesty, for 70 years of dedicated service. We will all miss you. May you rest in peace.

I wish to acknowledge and reaffirm my allegiance to King Charles III. I also want to quickly tell a story about when I met King Charles. It was at Government House here in Brisbane on the occasion of his 70th birthday, so everyone in the room was 70 bar me. I was the leader of the opposition at the time and the government assumed that would be a good event for me to attend, as is right and proper. When the now King Charles III came up and greeted me, his words straightaway were, 'Oh, well, you're not 70.' With that, I was completely taken aback because I was not quite sure how I was meant to react to that. I did say something like, 'Well, thank you for noticing.' With those short words, I would like to say may Queen Elizabeth the Great rest in peace.