




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

MOTION

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

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.12 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion of condolence for Queen Elizabeth II. On 8 September 2022, we were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen faithfully served in the role for over 70 years and was the first and only reigning monarch to visit Australia. Whether you are a monarchist or not, there is undoubtedly a huge and shared respect across the political divides for the life that she dedicated to public service; indeed, a great female leader. There is no doubt she was loved, respected and admired right across our state for her dignity, dare I say grace and strength.

The Queen visited Queensland on eight occasions, the first visit being just two years into her reign, all the way back in 1954. The Queen visited again in 1963, 1970, 1977, 1982, 1988 when she opened the Brisbane Expo and 2002. Her final visit was in October 2011 to show her support of Queenslanders who suffered in the floods and Cyclone Yasi that occurred earlier that year. Across those visits she took the time to visit regional centres as well as Brisbane, including Cairns and our Great Barrier Reef, Mackay, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Townsville, Bundaberg and Toowoomba. It is remarkable to think that during her reign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was served by 15 Australian prime ministers, 16 governors-general of Australia, and 13 Queensland premiers. In the United Kingdom, her reign spanned 15 prime ministers, from Churchill to Truss. I cannot imagine that one person will ever again have the inside gain from so many private conversations with world leaders.

On September 11, Queenslanders and Australians had the opportunity to welcome King Charles III. As the saying goes, long live the King. The proclamation was an historical event, the first that most Australians would have ever seen. In honour of the Queen and to commemorate Her Majesty's remarkable life and her dedication to service, Australia held a national day of mourning public holiday on Thursday, 22 September 2022. As Industrial Relations Minister, I stood in this House to bring in legislation so that Queensland could play our role in this national day. The national day of mourning for Her Majesty the Queen was of historical significance, and much genuine public grief has been expressed at the passing of the Queen. The public holiday allowed the people of Queensland to honour the passing of the Queen and to commemorate the Queen's remarkable life and outstanding dedication to service. I know that the national day of mourning for Her Majesty the Queen gave Queenslanders a chance to remember the Queen's long, dedicated and faithful service.

I send my deepest sympathy and condolences to King Charles III, all members of the Royal Family, her staff and friends. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.