




Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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### **HOLIDAYS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.39 am): The opposition will be supporting the legislation to honour Her Majesty The Queen on her passing. As the minister said, the Prime Minister announced the public holiday to be declared a National Day of Mourning. We understand that premiers and chief ministers had a telephone conference with the Prime Minister. I think it is a good thing for Australia to commemorate Her Majesty on the National Day of Mourning with a public holiday. Queenslanders may do it in different ways.

At our next sitting this parliament will debate an official condolence motion for the Queen, but I thought I would place on record at the first available opportunity our thanks to Her Majesty The Queen for 70 years of remarkable service to the Commonwealth. The Queen visited Queensland on eight occasions. I was there at South Bank on the last occasion Her Majesty The Queen visited Queensland, in 2011. There is much to thank Her Majesty for. As I said, the official condolence motion will be moved and debated at the next parliamentary sitting, when an opportunity will be afforded to all members of parliament to place on record our thanks and support for Her Majesty The Queen and also to look at her life, her accomplishments and what she set out to achieve, in particular in the Commonwealth. It is in that vein that I strongly support a public holiday on the National Day of Mourning.

I note that the Prime Minister, the Governor-General and other Australians are heading over to the funeral, which will take place on Monday. It is completely appropriate that as a country, as a nation, we come together. How people will do that is a matter for them. On the Sunshine Coast I would hope that our Sunshine Coast Regional Council would have events planned. I think it is a great opportunity. One has to be moved by the expression of goodwill shown by Queenslanders and Australians, and for that matter people all around the world, with the emotional tributes to Her Majesty The Queen on notification of her passing.

In her mourning we also look to the future and King Charles III. This is a King who has lost his mother. The normal mourning process a person would go through in mourning an individual loss has not been afforded to the new King because he is straight into the job. It has been good to see the seamless transition of the succession of the Crown that has occurred over the last few days.

In 2012, when I was the minister for industrial relations, we declared a public holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Yesterday the minister had the grace to call me and we talked about the holiday legislation and what is in the bill today. When reading through the holiday legislation I was reminded of the fact that in 2012 we had a public holiday to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. It is nothing out of the ordinary to afford Queenslanders a public holiday on the National Day of Mourning.

Queenslanders will mourn the loss of Her Majesty in their own way. I would encourage the state government to look at what activities on the National Day of Mourning the state can contribute to in our local communities through the offices of members of parliament, to see how we can help our community celebrate Her Majesty The Queen on this public holiday—to mourn the loss but celebrate and give

thanks to Her Majesty The Queen. I would ask the government and the Premier, through protocol and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, to see what support they can give our offices that we can in turn give our community to help celebrate Her Majesty's life and accomplishments.

Queenslanders may also look at other ways that we can honour Her Majesty. For instance, yesterday the opposition announced that we believe major infrastructure should be named in Her Majesty's honour, such as changing Cross River Rail to the 'Elizabeth Line'. That is one way that many Queenslanders can get on board and look to support Her Majesty's memory and give thanks to Her Majesty The Queen for everything she has done for the Commonwealth. As we were announcing this yesterday as a way Queenslanders could come together, and listening to Queenslanders, it was disappointing to see some ministers of the Crown politicise this issue.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will ensure relevance to bill before the House. I believe you are straying.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** In the declaration of a new public holiday, on the National Day of Mourning Queenslanders will celebrate ways to remember Her Majesty. I am simply suggesting that one of the ways is to look at major infrastructure projects across Queensland in terms of naming in honour of Her Majesty. As I said, it is disappointing that yesterday some ministers politicised the issue.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will direct you to come back to the bill now. I have given you some guidance. I would ask you to come back to the bill before the House.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I would encourage communities across Queensland to get out and about in their communities on the public holiday. I encourage regional councils across Queensland to hold activities to not only acknowledge the loss of the Queen but also give thanks to Her Majesty. In 2012 I met His Majesty The King when he travelled to Longreach. He spoke at a sausage sizzle about his love of Queensland. I would anticipate that many Queenslanders on the National Day of Mourning, on the public holiday which will be declared after this legislation goes through, may embrace that and come together as Aussies always do, in the spirit of being an Aussie, at barbecues or the pub—whatever it may be—and celebrate the life of one of the most remarkable women in leadership I have ever seen in the world.

For 70 years Her Majesty The Queen was our monarch. She spent 70 years on the throne. At 96 years of age, she literally worked till her death. Two days before her death she swore in the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She said to Australians—and she said it in Australia—that she would serve the Commonwealth for her whole life, whether it be short or long. It turned out it was long, and it was a great service to the Commonwealth.

Today I support this legislation so that Queenslanders can come together and celebrate the life of a remarkable woman. I publicly stated on the death of Her Majesty that we have closed the chapter on another Elizabethan era with Elizabeth II. May she be forever known as Elizabeth The Great.