



Speech By  
**Kim Richards**


**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

---

Record of Proceedings, 11 October 2022

## MOTION

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.14 am): I rise to support the condolence motion. Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was much loved and respected by people around the world. As others have expressed, it was with a sense of disbelief that we woke on the morning of 8 September to hear of her passing. Throughout her life she captured the imagination of people across the globe. She was a constant and reassuring presence across her 70 years as reigning monarch. Her life of service stretched beyond most of our living memories. It is an achievement we most likely will not see again in our lifetimes. Her Majesty set an example of selfless duty, grace, compassion and dignity throughout her entire life, all valuable qualities that we all can take great lessons from.

The Queen acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 after the death of her father King George VI. Her coronation took place in 1953 when she was only 27 years old. As the member for Kawana quite rightly pointed out, in Cape Town on her 21st birthday in her Royal Pledge she declared that for her whole life, whether long or short, she would be devoted to the service of the people. I think that that has been exemplified across the 70 years of her reign.

Through good and bad times Queen Elizabeth provided the Commonwealth with stability and strength. Throughout her life she visited more than 100 countries and touched the lives of millions around the world. She was a unifying presence to the Commonwealth. She first visited Australia as the first reigning monarch to visit Australia in 1954. We know that she visited Australia on 16 occasions and visited Queensland on eight of those: in 1977 for her Silver Jubilee; in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games; in 1988 for the Bicentennial and Expo 88; and of course her last visit in 2011 where she showed her deep support for Queenslanders and their resilience throughout the floods. I know that her visits made a great impact.

I am very fortunate to have at home a memento from her 1954 visit. At that time my dad was at Melbourne High School. Every student was offered a little pin, which I forgot to bring—I was going to bring it with me but left home without it—that commemorated her visit. I do a lot of visits to constituents in my electorate to celebrate their 100th birthday. What they point out to me is the card from the Queen that holds pride and place on their mantle. Across Queensland and Australia, her impact and her affinity with people turning 100 is absolutely amazing.

As the longest reigning monarch, she was the very spirit of service. That spirit and her legacy will continue to endure. I congratulate King Charles on his accession, as many have noted in here. He has had the most incredible apprenticeship in leading up to becoming the reigning monarch. It is an extraordinary achievement to have presided with such dignity and grace for 70 years. I remember and honour her affection for our country and her grace and kindness to the people of Australia and Queensland. Vale, Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.