




Speech By
Laura Gerber

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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MOTION

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

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.43 pm): On 8 September, the world mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96. As a community, it brings us comfort to know that she passed peacefully surrounded by her family and her beloved corgis at her Balmoral home. In commemoration of her exemplary life and on behalf of the people of Currumbin, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family to whom Her Majesty was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Throughout her wonderful life, Her Majesty was an inspiration and an example to all. In the words of His Majesty King Charles III—

Queen Elizabeth's was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing.

We have seen this over the last month. We have witnessed an outpour of magnificent and powerful tributes in honour of her life. Her Majesty was our Queen. She was an exceptional leader, and she was a monarch who had a real and profound connection to our Commonwealth. At just 14 years old, a young Princess Elizabeth made an official radio broadcast in 1940, addressing and empathising with English children who had to evacuate to escape the bombing of British cities. As a Princess, she became the first female member of the Royal Family to join the armed services as a full-time active member. Here she learnt to drive and to maintain vehicles. Two years later, on her 21st birthday, she was appointed Colonel in Chief of the Balaklava Company of the 5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. It was during her service and her time in Cape York, South Africa, that she pledged to devote her life, whether short or long, to the service of her people. As His Majesty the King has said—

That was more than a promise: it was a profound personal commitment which defined her whole life. She made sacrifices for duty.

Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss.

In her life of service we saw that abiding love of tradition, together with that fearless embrace of progress, which make us great as Nations. The affection, admiration and respect she inspired became the hallmark of her reign.

During her reign as Queen, Her Majesty visited Australia on 16 occasions. One of these visits is firm in my mind, not because I was there but because I have heard about it from my mum and my grandparents many times. In February 1963 the Queen sailed into Sydney Harbour on board the yacht *Britannia*. My grandparents, mum and her seven siblings were also on a boat in Sydney Harbour, waiting for a glimpse of the Queen. The Queen's royal yacht sailed past them and my grandparents have never stopped talking about it.

Then on 7 March 1963, our beautiful Coolangatta Beach played host to Her Majesty and the then Duke of Edinburgh. It was a wet and rainy day, but it did not stop locals from lining the streets in droves, piling onto the walkways, edging to get a glimpse of our Queen Elizabeth. The rain did not keep the

smiles away either, and it certainly did not drown out the cheers of celebration as Her Majesty attended a royal surf carnival on Coolangatta Beach which saw a spectacular march of over 500 surf lifesavers from clubs ranging from Cairns to Yamba—all marching for the Queen. It is recorded that the Queen enjoyed the surf carnival so much that she overstayed the itinerary schedule by 20 minutes—and that is an extraordinary thing in itself. In the months preceding the royal visit to Coolangatta, thought was given to how the event could be commemorated, and our very own Coolangatta chamber of commerce, as it was called then, suggested that the foreshore be named after Her Majesty. The proposal was adopted by council and the Queen viewed the surf carnival at Coolangatta from Queen Elizabeth Park.

For seven decades, Her Majesty served our great country, and the Commonwealth, as our head of state. Her Majesty's jubilees reflect her unwavering service to all Commonwealth nations since her coronation. It was just a few months ago that Her Majesty celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. She became the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of tireless service to the Commonwealth. We are so grateful to have the Jubilee Walkway just around the corner from us, starting in Queen Elizabeth Park, to commemorate this momentous occasion.

Throughout Her Majesty's life, she dutifully kept all the promises she made with dignity and respect. She diligently provided the Commonwealth with unwavering devotion and service through periods of profound change, and she served as a paragon of continuity during times of uncertainty. To Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, I give a final message from our Currumbin electorate: thank you for your extraordinary 70 years of service. Your Majesty will always hold a very special place in the hearts of the people of Currumbin. We enjoy the democracy we have today because of your dedication to our country and your commitment to prospering our Commonwealth. You truly exemplify what it means to live a life of service, dedicated to duty, faith and family.

Your Majesty, may you rest in eternal peace, alongside your strength and stay. Vale, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. God save the King.