




Speech By
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MOTION

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

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (11.09 am): I rise to make my contribution to the condolence motion for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Few, if any, deaths in human history have been felt as widely or as deeply across the world. This is certainly an important moment to mark in history. While her passing occurs after a very long and full life, it has left many with a real sense of sadness across the world, the Commonwealth, Australia and of course North Queensland in the small part of the world that I represent. Her Majesty being born in 1926 and ascending to the throne in 1952 left that legacy of dutifully serving for 70 years. That is something really significant to focus on, despite interpretations of the Crown, the Royals and the significance of that. Anyone in this modern age who occupies an office with dignity and with what would appear a real competency over that period and who dedicates themselves to a pursuit for that long and under that intense scrutiny is to be remembered and admired.

She embodied many of the personal and professional virtues that seem to be slipping away in modern times in terms of committing to that life purpose and vocation whether willing or not. She had a strong and unwavering sense of duty and responsibility to others—a hallmark, a modesty of demeanour, graciousness, civility, prudence and fortitude. There are many events and challenges that could have broken the Queen's spirit over the years, and they did not. We all have something to learn from her strength and grace.

I make mention of the occasion in 1970 when as part of a royal tour to Australia Her Majesty the Queen and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh visited Mount Isa. This speaks to that area that I really respect of the Queen in terms of her tenure. They were guests of Mount Isa Mines and stayed at Case Grande, the big grand house on the hill at the Mount Isa mine site. While in town they visited the Mount Isa Royal Flying Doctor Service base, toured the Buckley Avenue flats and the mine flats and met more than 6,000 children—some travelled from as far as Burketown and Birdsville to be there. The Queen also presented sports trophies at Mount Isa Mines Primary School. More than 17,000 people—that is a big number for Mount Isa—attended the mini rodeo held on 15 April 1970. The Duke is reported to have hardly taken his eyes from his binoculars while watching the action. I am sure that in that arid landscape watching the bull riding and bronc riding it would have been a spectacle for them to see. I suppose it was pretty different to the polo matches on green turf that they watch in England.

Personally, I recall that Paddy Cusack was one of the riders at that rodeo. He was the first Australian stockman. I am friends with his grandchildren and, I could say, his children. I know his children who are aged in years now. Old Paddy used to say how proud he was to have ridden in front of the Queen. My grandfather played a role in giving him that opportunity. They said, 'We are just always so grateful your grandfather gave Paddy the opportunity to ride in front of the Queen. It was one of the things he remembered so much in life.' I had a very similar experience only a few weeks ago with the late Teddy Lane, a bronc rider as well. His daughter Beverly Wardropp from Cloncurry said, 'You know,

Robbie, that time he rode in front of the Queen? What a wonderful experience it was, another first for an Australian stockman there.' I think that shows the link to where we are now in terms of having the monarch there as someone to look up to. That sort of speaks to the significance it played in people's lives for which we are grateful.

The people of Mount Isa loved having the Queen there as did the people of Australia. I pass on my condolences from the people of Traeger. Her Majesty's family must have felt the loss very deeply. We welcome new King Charles to the throne. Vale, Queen Elizabeth II.