




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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MOTION

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

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.34 pm): On behalf of the people of my electorate of Mirani and Australian South Sea Islanders, I extend my sincere condolences to His Majesty the King and the Royal Family on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's life was dedicated to service, including to Australia and the state of Queensland, and she will be remembered with deep affection. Queen Elizabeth II touched the lives of countless Queenslanders from every walk of life during her visits to Australia through the decades. When Her Majesty the Queen passed away on 8 September after her 70-year reign as Australian's head of state we joined the rest of Queensland, Australia, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning to mark the end of a life devoted to duty.

Throughout her reign Queen Elizabeth II exemplified service and grace and inspired the respect of people from across the world. The Queen's reign from 6 February 1952 spanned prime ministers Sir Robert Menzies, Harold Holt, John McEwen, John Gorton, William McMahon, Gough Whitlam, Malcolm Fraser, Bob Hawke, Paul Keating, John Howard, Kevin Rudd, Julia Gillard, Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison and recently Anthony Albanese. Significant events included Her Majesty's coronation in 1953 and the celebration of her Silver Jubilee in 1977, Gold Jubilee in 2002, Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Her Majesty celebrated being the longest serving royal with her Platinum Jubilee, the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Over the course of her record-breaking reign the Queen witnessed unprecedented social, cultural and political change and travelled extensively throughout the Commonwealth. These are some interesting facts you may not know about Queen Elizabeth II. She was born 21 April 1926. She was not born in a palace; she was born in a townhouse—17 Bruton Street in the Mayfair neighbourhood of London—that belonged to her Scottish maternal grandparents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore. Queen Elizabeth II was the first female member of the Royal Family to become a fully active member of the British Armed Forces in 1945. She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a second subaltern and learned to drive and service vehicles. Five months later she was promoted to junior commander. On Victory in Europe Day she joined the street parties in London, inconspicuous in her military uniform. As the monarch the Queen was head of the British Armed Forces.

She received more than 2,500 wedding gifts when she married Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1947. Since rationing was still in force in the United Kingdom after the Second World War members of the public from around the world sent tinned food—which was redistributed to people in need—and nylon stockings. She was the first monarch to be crowned in a televised coronation ceremony. For the first time, cameras were invited into Westminster Abbey to film the ritual—except for the sacred anointing of the monarch with holy oil. An estimated 277 million people around the world watched the coronation on television, many purchasing their first television set for the occasion.

When a youthful Elizabeth II acceded to the throne in 1952 she was hailed by English newspapers as 'a fairytale queen, the hope for our nation'. Here was the new Elizabethan age that promised to chase away the shadows of postwar gloom. Elizabeth herself seemed to have kept her feet firmly on the ground. 'Frankly,' she intoned in her second Christmas broadcast to the nation, 'I do not myself feel at all like my great Tudor forebear, who was blessed with neither husband nor children, who ruled as a despot and was never able to leave her native shores.'

Both Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria set the bar high as icons of female leadership. Elizabeth II did not have to contend with all of those concerns over female weakness that troubled previous ages when might equalled right. Twentieth century monarchy meant she was constitutional sovereign of a democratic United Kingdom. She took on an awesome array of responsibilities, including: head of state and the legislature; head of the Church of England and Armed Forces; head of state of overseas realms and head of the Commonwealth; not to mention chief ambassador for the UK and the figurehead of a top tourism brand.

There is no doubt that the Queen has presided over revolutionary times socially, politically and technologically. Now even the monarchy is on Facebook. I am grateful for all that Her Majesty achieved during a remarkable life. On behalf of the Mirani electorate, we offer our sincere condolences to the Royal Family, recognising that their loss was also felt by so many people here in Queensland and across the world. I will fondly remember Her Majesty. It has been my honour to serve as her representative in Queensland.