




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MOTION

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.40 pm): I rise to support the motion of condolence for the recent passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Most people on my side of the House know that I am a very strong supporter of an Australian head of state—not a republic: a tweaking of the system to replace the Governor-General with an Australian appointed by the Australian parliament. However, that does not mean I do not have deep respect for the monarchy and, in particular, Queen Elizabeth II and the role she has played over the last 70 years. Australia and England are inextricably linked in so many different ways. Until recently the majority of Australians had English ancestry—white Australians, of course. My grandmother herself was British and so we had a very strong connection to the old country. The British flag is on our flag. The Westminster system of government comes from Great Britain. There are lots of sporting rivalries, whether it is in cricket, tennis or rugby, between the two nations and, of course, we have developed a very strong love for the Royal Family.

The Queen represented everything that is good about England. I was brought up, as I have heard a couple of more mature members mention, singing *God save the Queen* at primary school. It was the first tune I learned when I played drums in the recorder band. I remember as a young person watching the investiture of the King, the then Prince of Wales, which was a pretty big deal, the wedding of Charles and Di, and mum always made sure that we listened to the Queen's Christmas message on Christmas Day. When any Australian from my generation goes to England, the first thing they want to do is go to Buckingham Palace and marvel at the fact you are actually there seeing something that is so important to our history.

I cannot add much to what people have already said about Queen Elizabeth and all her amazing attributes. She did bring a sense of stability. There was a constancy about her. She had a calming influence. I know many Queensland residents have been encouraged by the ray of hope given on the visits that she has made, particularly after disasters. I heard the member for Gympie mention that one of the key roles of Queen Elizabeth was as defender of the faith. That is the Christian faith. The centre of that faith is Jesus Christ and he once said, 'I have come not to be served, but to serve.' I cannot think of a better epitaph than that for Queen Elizabeth II. Vale, Queen Elizabeth.