




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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ADJOURNMENT

Latter, Mr K; Denman Family

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.06 pm): It was with deep sadness that I attended the funeral of the late CEO of Canegrowers Mackay, Kerry Latter. A man of many hats across his working life, Kerry was a Queen's Scout, a Royal Australian Air Force serviceman, a leader in financial institutions, a CEO in employment agencies and CHR—and he was my CEO for a period—an active and generous community member, a son and a brother, but his most prized hat was that of dad to his two beloved daughters, Daria and Liana, who I had the pleasure of meeting at his service. Kerry was an absolute advocate for the sugar industry but also for agriculture as a whole across our state. I had the pleasure of working alongside him for many years as a canegrower myself in the Rural Affairs Committee of Mackay Regional Council, as well as the skills formation strategy of agriculture across our community.

I also had the great privilege to serve with him as an LNP member and a National Party member when we went to several National Party congresses in Canberra. Kerry ran for the seat of Mirani in the state election and he also ran on the LNP Senate ticket for the federal election. Kerry was known to many as somebody who saw the future in biofutures and the link the sugar industry plays as well as the important role that agriculture plays across our great state. He will be missed. He is survived by his two daughters, his mother Ivy, who is an incredible woman, and his brothers Reg and Harry and his sisters Jenny and Sharon and their families. We send our condolences.

I would also like to say that it was an absolute privilege to be a guest at Etowri, celebrating 150 years of the Denman family earlier this month. Etowri was originally settled by British born Edward Denman in 1873. Edward was the son of a miller who arrived in Australia in 1872 aged 28, having spent time in the British West Indies on a sugar plantation gaining experience in cane cultivation and milling. He spent his first few years clearing 242 hectares—which I know is nearly 600 acres—of hill land on the north side of the Pioneer River. His first crop was maize and cane was to follow. The Denman family has contributed significantly to our sugar and beef industries and, more recently, our broader community, with Robert Denman receiving our Australian of the Year award at Mackay Regional Council. I am privileged to call him and his wife friends. It is one of the only properties in the area to have remained in the same family for 150 years, and we congratulate them.