



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Bailey, Mr EW OAM**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (9.39 am): As the Liberal National Party's state member for Moggill, I rise to support this motion as moved by the Premier and, in doing so, honour the life and public service of the former member for Toowong, Mr Earle Wilfred Bailey OAM, who passed away on 8 July 2023 at the age of 81 years. Born on 5 October 1941 in Melbourne and following his education at schools in New South Wales and Queensland and higher education at the University of Sydney, Earle Bailey commenced his remarkable career in television as a journalist, film producer and as a managing director. Prior to entering Queensland state politics, Earle Bailey was well known and recognised for his ubiquitous television appearances in the homes of Queenslanders through his television show, *Bailey and the Birds*.

Turning to Earle Bailey's parliamentary career, Earle served for one term as the Queensland National Party state member for Toowong from 1983 to 1986. The year 1983 was very auspicious in many ways. It was the year that Bob Hawke was elected prime minister of Australia—in fact, in March of 1983. Whilst I do not have a fond regard for Labor politics and policies, I must say that Bob Hawke was a fine Australian and distinguished Prime Minister. I certainly also have a soft spot for the former Secretary of the ACTU, Bill Keelty, who also assumed his role in 1983. It was also the year that Australia won the America's Cup on 26 September 1983. Do you remember the excitement and thrill when John Bertrand, Alan Bond and the entire *Australia II* team secured the America's Cup? This was the first time in 132 years that a country other than the United States of America had won the cup. It was on 26 October in 1983 that Earle Bailey was elected to the Queensland parliament.

Earlier that year, Terry White, the then Liberal state member for Redcliffe, had torn up the coalition agreement, and I remember as a then 10-year-old boy my family making the decision to support the endorsed National Party candidate, Earle Bailey. This then became the first time I became involved in a political election campaign by supporting Earle Bailey and, in fact, handing out how-to-vote cards for him as a 10-year-old. It has been a long 40 years. I also remember him well, having met him a number of times on the campaign trail and throughout subsequent years. There were also some terrific and various functions I attended in St Lucia and Toowong with my family as a part of his campaign and his subsequent tenure in office between 1983 and 1986. However, the irony is that the two parliamentarians who bookended Earle Bailey's representative career in the Queensland parliament have subsequently become both great friends and mentors to me, that being former Liberal state member for Toowong, Ian Prentice who represented the state seat of Toowong from 1980 to 1983 and was defeated by Earle Bailey, and also former attorney-general and state member for Indooroopilly, Denver Beanland, who defeated Earle Bailey at the 1986 election and who represented the state seat of Indooroopilly from 1986 to 2001. Apart from being the beneficiary of the collegiate friendship of Ian Prentice and Denver Beanland, I have also had the mentorship of the former member for Redcliffe, Terry White—the irony of Queensland politics.

As the Liberal National Party shadow minister for education, I also acknowledge that during his first speech as a member of the Legislative Assembly Earle Bailey proudly declared education as his No. 1 priority and assured parents, teachers and students of his electorate that he would actively work for the betterment of all schools in the electorate of Toowong. Following his service as an elected representative in the Queensland parliament, Earle later served as a councillor in the Douglas Shire Council from 1994 to 1999. Following his tenure and contribution as councillor, Earle Bailey was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2001 new year's Honours List for his service to communities of the Port Douglas region through local government and tourism and to the development of the radio and television industries. This was not the first time Earle had been formally acknowledged and awarded for his achievements; he was also awarded two Logie awards for most popular male in Queensland in 1982 and 1983.

As Liberal National Party state member for Moggill, I take this opportunity to recognise the service of the late Earle Bailey to the western suburbs of Brisbane. Vale, Earle Wilfred Bailey OAM.