




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Bailey, Mr EW OAM

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.35 am): Earle Bailey, whose service to this parliament we recognise today, will be remembered as a member who came into this parliament with an established career behind him and as a person who upon leaving continued to make a significant contribution to his community. He was one of a cohort of parliamentarians who ushered in a new era of politics in this state when the once entirely country and regionally based National Party established a bridgehead in Brisbane which lasted throughout much of the 1980s.

Earle Bailey, though born in Melbourne in 1941, developed his political interests in northern New South Wales. He was a grandson of Sir Earle Page, a former leader of the federal Country Party and member for the New South Wales seat of Cowper from 1919 to 1961. Another grandson, Don Page, served in the New South Wales parliament from 1988 to 2015.

He embarked on a career in journalism, working in both radio and television in Australia and the UK. He worked on significant current affairs programs, such as *This Day Tonight* and *State Affair*, before embarking on a career in television production. He compered and produced the groundbreaking Brisbane production *Bailey and the Birds* for Brisbane audiences. As an established Brisbane figure, the National Party recruited Mr Bailey to contest the metropolitan seat of Toowong in 1983 and he was elected in October that year. While his time in parliament was limited to just one term, he sought to carve out an identity based on service to the people of Toowong.

His parliamentary contribution centred on the need to protect small business, combat traffic congestion, manage the growth of the University of Queensland in St Lucia, limit the burden of taxation and promote educational opportunities. In his first major speech in the Legislative Assembly on 30 November 1983, Mr Bailey nailed his colours to the mast when he said—

To me, the most important principle of human existence is the freedom of the individual. One way of evaluating freedom is by reference to decision-making ability, decision-making being shared between Governments and individuals. It is obvious that decision-making is power, and the more power that Governments have, the less remains to be shared amongst individuals.

Earle Bailey was defeated in 1986 by the local Liberal alderman, Denver Beanland. Denver has recounted that during this campaign Earle Bailey distributed brochures around the electorate saying that Denver was such a great local representative that he should stay in council and that he was such a fine state member that he deserved to be re-elected. After his defeat, Earle Bailey embarked on a business career and he and his wife, Penny, moved to Port Douglas. As the Premier said, between 1993 and 1999 he served on the Douglas Shire Council. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2001 new year's honours list for his services to the Port Douglas community through local government and tourism and to the development of the radio and television industries.

Earle and Penny Bailey later moved to Noosa where he became an enthusiastic contributor to his local community. He served on the Noosa Long Weekend committee, including a term as president in 2007.

Our former colleague Glen Elmes, the President of the Former Parliamentary Members' Association, has written—

I had the pleasure of knowing Earle for many years. He lived at Noosa Springs, loved his golf and was active in the community. He also served on the committee and later as President of the Board of Advice for the Noosa Hospital. He was my campaign director at the 2015 and 2017 elections. Earle was a straight shooter and spoke his mind. You always knew where you stood.

Although his time in this House was short, Earle Bailey never ceased working for others. His contribution is acknowledged. We extend to Penny and his family our condolences on their loss.