



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## MOTION

### Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, Address of Congratulations

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.41 pm): On 6 May 2023, the world witnessed an event that has not been seen for 70 years: the coronation of a new monarch at Westminster Abbey. On behalf of His Majesty's most loyal opposition, I wish to place on record our hearty congratulations to His Majesty the King on his coronation. I also wish to pass on our congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen.

Though King since 8 September 2022 with the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III, accompanied by Queen Camilla, was crowned before nearly 2,300 guests and in the glare of the world's television screens. Westminster Abbey has been the setting for every coronation since 1066 beginning with the Christmas Day coronation of William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy. His Majesty was the 40th sovereign to be crowned at the Abbey.

The ancient ceremony is one steeped in tradition, though its contemporary form dates from the coronation of Edward VII, the King's great-great-grandfather, in 1902. The original 14th century order of service descends directly from that of King Edgar in 973, and it has provided the basis of every coronation since. The King was crowned in St Edward's Chair, made in 1300 for Edward I and used at every coronation since. St Edward's Crown, made in 1661 for the coronation of Charles II, was placed on the King's head during the service. The King was anointed with oil from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, underlining the religious nature of the ceremony, the anointing done with the Coronation Spoon used at every coronation since 1349.

Much has changed in the 70 years since Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, yet the fundamentals of the coronation remain the same. The sovereign took the Coronation Oath as a prelude to the crowning by the Archbishop of Canterbury, drawing a direct link between the sovereign, the realms, the Commonwealth and his people. The coronation of our King marks the beginning of a new era and links the notion of continuity and change.

I am a proud member of the Australian Monarchist League. We held many events across Australia. I understand my shadow assistant minister, the member for Lockyer, also attended many events and wishes to be associated with my remarks here today. The Monarchist League is now the leader and go-to organisation on all things constitutional monarchy. The league fights to protect our constitutional monarchy, thus ensuring the stability, the checks and balances it brings to our nation. It is easy in this age of globalisation to spurn tradition as being an unnecessary encumbrance from the past, but in fact tradition reveals the past as an integral aspect of living now and in the future. It is the glue which holds the three ages of life together—the past, the present, the future—in a constant forward momentum. We are all products of our past, whether we wish it or not, and our system of governance, with its attendant traditions, becomes a timeless reminder for us all.

Our monarch is crowned in a ceremony which looks back to the Byzantine Empire. The notion of the crown, the orb and the sceptre are all manifestations of previous ages and are still potent symbols today. Without tradition, we lose our collective identity.

I want to congratulate the young LNP who held a watch party at Red Hill Cinemas, which I attended. I always wish to strengthen the ties between our monarchy and Queensland, and I would wish that future governments may look to inviting the Prince of Wales to be a future governor of Queensland. I am on record also, once upon a time, recommending another prince be governor. That tweet did not age well and I recant my remarks with respect to Prince Harry when I said he would make a fantastic governor of Queensland, but alas, I believe Prince William would make a wonderful governor of Queensland by a future government.

I look forward to the visits of the King and Queen and other members of the Royal Family. I have met Their Majesties on two occasions in Queensland, once in Longreach and once in Brisbane. Their Majesties love regional and outback Queensland. It was great to see in the corridors of the regional parliament His Majesty's representative, the Governor, visiting regional parliament and she said what a wonderful coronation service it was that she attended. Their Majesties will always be welcome in Queensland, and we look forward to welcoming them and other members of the Royal Family on their next visit. God save the King and long may he reign!