




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

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

 **Mr ACTING SPEAKER:** Honourable members, without entering the debate, I did want to contribute a few words. The Office of the Speaker in its role in the Westminster parliamentary system of government and its values align with the motion. I had the great privilege recently of attending the Commonwealth Day service at Westminster Abbey where at that stage the uncrowned King Charles gave an address. It was a very impressive address. One of the things that really stuck with me was his enthusiasm for the youth of the Commonwealth, and it is great to see so many young people in the gallery here today. He expressed quite clearly the view that we need to ensure that all of our parliamentary democracies around the world are doing all they can to encourage and engage young people in the parliamentary process. He also noted his strong support for the Commonwealth and appreciation of all of the realms of the Commonwealth, and I assume that includes Queensland.

I have been personally impressed by the King. I think his humble visit to Northern Ireland was very important. I think it demonstrates a maturing of the institution, and I think that was reciprocated when Michelle O'Neill, the Vice-President of Sinn Fein, attended the coronation ceremony, an incredible step forward in that issue.

There will be many views in this chamber and beyond around the institution of the monarchy, but I think there would be very few people who would not admire deeply the service to the community of the late Queen and King Charles over a very significant period of time.