



Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

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

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.46 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the crossbench members to support the motion moved by the Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympics that we the members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Queensland congratulate His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla upon their recent coronation. We wish Their Majesties a long and happy reign, distinguished by peace and prosperity throughout the Commonwealth.

The coronation of His Majesty at the weekend was an historic event with close to 19 million people watching and peaking at over 20 million when His Majesty was crowned. The last coronation was 70 years ago when Queen Elizabeth was crowned in 1953. Queen Elizabeth II was without doubt one of the most respected leaders in history. Because of her leadership, the monarchy is highly revered and is an institution that is woven into the very fabric of every nation under the Commonwealth. In fact, we should be extremely proud to be part of the Commonwealth.

I enjoyed the pure majesty of the coronation at the weekend. If I am being perfectly honest, I would rather see William on the throne, but Charles was next in line and he did have to wait till kingdom come, so he deserves to finally wear the crown.

The Australian Constitution is supreme law in Australia. It established Australia as a federation under a constitutional monarchy and outlines the structures and powers of the Australian government's three constituent parts—the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. We have to remember that our Australian Constitution is based on over 1,000 years of British monarchy and was developed from blood, sweat and tears of the British people. Those who want to change it would be removing our constitutional rights and everything our forefathers fought for. There is an old saying: 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it.' Some may not like the monarchy, but our history, foundations and many of our freedoms originated from England.

The monarchy is still as relevant today as it was back in 1999 when we had the republic debate and referendum. Only one state, Victoria, supported a republic, but every other state voted against it. I would say that should the same referendum be held today it would have much the same results.

To the Brits, the monarchy is a vital part and promotes the nation on the world stage. The UK government has called the monarchy a unique soft power and diplomatic asset which has promoted British interests and values, increased tourism and promotes charities worldwide. When members of the Royal Family visit Australia, they are always treated like rockstars. Streets are lined with tens of thousands of people and the worldwide media are focused on the nation for the entire visit. To be part of the Commonwealth certainly puts our nation on the world stage and no doubt increases our profile and standing amongst the leading nations on the planet.

On behalf of the crossbench, I thank the House for allowing me to speak today and fully support the motion. Queen Elizabeth II will continue to be forever present in our memories, however long live His Majesty King Charles III.