




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Boyle, Mr BJ

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.52 pm): I rise today to remember Brian John Boyle—husband, father, friend to many, proud unionist and proud member of the great Australian Labor Party. Born on 13 September 1957, Brian had a strict upbringing alongside siblings Kevin, Lester, Jennifer and Lindsay. He studied chemistry and in 1984, when he first met his future wife, Christine, Brian was working at the Bulimba power station. Brian and Christine married in 1985 and together followed his work to Swanbank, then Nanango, to Swanbank again, then his last posting to Chinchilla, where he worked on a fly-in fly-out basis.

Brian joined the Mining and Energy Union early in his career, became a delegate and went on to champion workplace health and safety in the energy sector for over 17 years. After I was elected he came to meet with me on many occasions to talk to me about different concerns he had about workplace safety. Brian also dedicated many hours to supporting local Labor and union campaigns. He was very encouraging of me when I first sought preselection in Pumicestone. Despite his many years in male-dominated industries, I remember him saying, 'What this area needs is a strong woman.' Today, on behalf of the labour movement, I express our appreciation of Brian's work to protect the rights and ensure the wellbeing of Queensland's power workers.

Despite the remoteness of his work, Christine says that Brian was a wonderful and loving husband who always worked hard to make a good home for his family. Their family life together brought sadness with the death of the couple's first son, Grant, in 1988, followed by joy at the birth of their second son, Simon, and daughter, Emily. Brian and Christine lived and worked in many corners of Queensland but ultimately chose our beautiful Pumicestone community of Beachmere as their forever home.

A kind and friendly soul, Brian was always the first to put his hand up to help anyone who asked and more than a few who didn't. Everywhere he went, Brian forged lifelong friends. Brian was diagnosed with cancer in March of last year and fought with great tenacity and strength. Sadly, Brian passed away in the early hours of 29 April at only 66 years old. Brian's last words to Christine were 'I love you'. I offer my condolences and those of the Queensland Labor Party and labour movement to Christine, to her and Brian's surviving children, Simon and Emily, and to his many friends and colleagues. Brian was taken too soon. The Labor Party, the union movement and his many family and friends are all the poorer for his passing. Vale, Brian John Boyle.