




Speech By
Hon. Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Hon. BJ MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.56 pm): I was honoured to be elected as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2017 and 2020, and I was honoured to serve as the former premier's assistant minister from 2020. The former premier had a genuine love and appreciation for all Queenslanders. This included our current and ex-service personnel, war widows and their families. I saw this firsthand as her assistant minister for veterans' affairs. In 2021, for example, the former premier announced that Queensland would become the first state in the country to formally recognise War Widows Day. At the time I remember joining the spouses of fallen Queensland veterans here at Parliament House who were visibly touched by this recognition. She was also instrumental in establishing the first ever Queensland Veterans' Council.

As many in this House would acknowledge, the former premier was famous for her ability to listen to Queenslanders and her leadership during COVID-19 in particular. She kept us safe, she kept our economy going and she outlasted many—quite a few of whom are on the opposite side of this House. I want to thank the former premier for the opportunity to be her assistant minister and be part of her government from 2017 onwards and for her dedication and commitment to all Queenslanders.