




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.59 pm): I want to place on record my thanks to Annastacia Palaszczuk and talk about her legacy amongst 100 years of Labor governments in Queensland. I believe the former premier embodied the strong leadership we have seen in all the great Labor premiers of Queensland. On four occasions, there has been a ground-shaking, generation-changing arrival of a Labor government here in Queensland: 1915 with TJ Ryan, 1932 with Forgan Smith, 1989 with Wayne Goss and 2015 with Annastacia Palaszczuk. She stands alongside all these giants.

Each time these Labor premiers ushered in sweeping changes and built a stronger and greater economy in Queensland. Annastacia Palaszczuk brought in a suite of social reforms that stand alongside those of Ryan and Goss—things like rights for LGBTIQ Queenslanders, a woman's right to choose and voluntary assisted dying. She has overseen an era where Labor has come to be recognised as the best economic stewards in this nation, as happened with Forgan Smith.

She launched the clean energy revolution here in Queensland and that will change the economic foundations of our state. We had budget surpluses, low debt and a rock solid infrastructure pipeline under her leadership. Of course her leadership during COVID will be studied for generations. As we said at the time, we are safe because she is strong. Annastacia Palaszczuk will be remembered as an iconic, strong Labor leader, but I will remember the empathy that she brought to the job. You could see her heart swell when she talked to children. She would sit next to me in caucus and ask, 'How are the children?' and she would name them—Guy, Rebecca and Arabella. That is a mark of a person. Thank you, Boss.

(Time expired)