




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2024

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (10.46 am): Mr Presiding Member, at the outset I welcome all members to the 58th Parliament of Queensland. It is a privilege to nominate the member for Condamine for the high and honourable office of Speaker. The role of Speaker in Westminster parliaments is respected and admired. It is a role that is steeped in history. There have been 37 people who have held the position of Speaker of this House since 1860 and each has brought their own experiences and qualities to this role. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the former Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, whose time in the office concluded yesterday after almost seven years of service. I wish Mr Pitt all the best for his future.

The member for Condamine is well respected by members on all sides of this House and I believe that, if elected, he will bring a fair and measured approach to the role of Speaker. The member for Condamine was born in Toowoomba and grew up on the family farm in Cecil Plains. He was educated at the Cecil Plains state primary and high schools and he worked on the family farm, helping his father and uncle to produce dryland crops and cattle. In his late teens and early 20s, the member moved north and spent some time working as a builder's labourer in Cairns. I note the member spent his 21st birthday working on Lizard Island and then worked on an exploration drilling rig in the Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory.

Shortly after this, though, the member's father and uncle both sadly passed away. This left the member with the opportunity to purchase the family farm in Cecil Plains from his mother. I understand that immediately after the purchase a drought set in and the member was unable to grow any grain for two years and he was forced to handfeed his cattle. While several good seasons followed, enabling some impressive crops to be grown, devastating floods then came, ruining the member's crops and those of many of his neighbours. Working on the land has certainly given the member for Condamine an appreciation of the hardships in life and of the optimism and determination of those who work the land. These are wonderful traits, and I believe the member will bring those traits to the office of Speaker. I note that, if elected, the member would be the first member representing a rural Darling Downs based electorate to be Speaker of this House since Sir Alan Fletcher served in this role from 1957 to 1960.

Since his election to this House in 2015, the member for Condamine has served in a variety of parliamentary positions. He has been a shadow minister and a deputy opposition whip and he has served on several portfolio committees, including as deputy chair. Importantly, the member has served for several years as a temporary Speaker and also as an alternate for the Leader of the Opposition on the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. In these two roles the member has gained experience presiding over the sittings in this House as well as behind-the-scenes exposure to parliamentary and legislative processes and practices.

Honourable members, the member for Condamine is respected within his electorate as a hardworking and diligent member of the parliament. If elected, these are the qualities that the member will bring to the role of Speaker, not only in the chair in this House but also as a representative of this House in its relations with other authorities and persons outside of the parliament including on ceremonial and formal occasions.

Mr Presiding Member, the 58th Parliament of Queensland has much significant business ahead of it. I have full confidence that, if elected as Speaker, the member for Condamine will bring a fair and measured approach to the role of Speaker. He will allow robust but respectful debate, as necessary, as well as strive to do the best for the people of Queensland and allow all of us to do the same. Mr Presiding Member, I commend the member for Condamine to the House for election to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.