




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (3.23 pm): I rise to proudly support the motion moved by the Premier. I am astounded by how low those opposite will sink in times like this. Annastacia Palaszczuk has the honour of being Australia's most successful female political leader. She was first elected in 2006 and I was absolutely delighted to join her following a by-election in 2007. She loves Queensland and delivering for the people of Queensland was what she worked tirelessly for every single day. None of us in this House are perfect, but, although her legacy has yet to be written, it is truly outstanding by anyone's measure. It was an absolute pleasure to work with her.

Annastacia Palaszczuk is a true friend, a trusted confidant, a strong and inspiring leader and a mentor. She was the first woman to become a state premier from opposition, defeating an absolute majority in this House. She did that in one term through determination, good policy and good leadership. She led our nation's first majority female cabinet. I say that again: our nation's first majority female cabinet. She became the first woman leader in Australia to be re-elected. All of those are outstanding political achievements.

On a personal note, we shared a struggle with fertility due to certain medical reasons. I will never forget when we got the call to adopt our child. I was working in the Keating government. The first person I bumped into was Annastacia Palaszczuk. I will never forget the care, support and love she poured onto me. Aly turns 30 in October.

Annastacia passed legislation to decriminalise termination of pregnancy. The list I have in front of me! She kept us safe during COVID. We won the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are investing in infrastructure. We built new schools and air-conditioned them. I wish her all the best. There is not enough time to pour my love and express the thanks I have for her.