



Speech By  
**James Lister**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

**CONDOLENCE**

**Harper, Hon. NJ**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.01 am): A lot has been said about the Hon. Neville Harper today, including on his service to the country and his role as a soldier settler. I thought I would say, as a member who has a number of soldier settler blocks and history in my own electorate, it was far from certain there would be success as a result of the hard work that was put in. Many of those ex-service personnel who took blocks of land over the years fell by the wayside but that did not happen with Nev Harper. I think his hard work and his ability was to bode him well for his future years in politics.

In addition to the many things which he achieved as minister—particularly as minister for justice and attorney-general—there is one thing which particularly stands out—that is, that he was responsible for the inauguration of the Sturgess report. This was conducted by the inaugural holder of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Des Sturgess. It was a seminal work which ultimately led, in part, to the Fitzgerald inquiry and it uncovered cases of child prostitution and cases of police protection of unlawful prostitution operations. That was no small thing. For that, along with everything else, he certainly deserves to be remembered well. I would like to share with the House my personal condolences to the family who have lost Nev Harper. He was a great Queenslander.