




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Mr BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (3.27 pm): If, in 2012, someone had written a movie script about the future career of the former premier and member for Inala, the film would never have been made because it would have been scarcely believable. In our state's history, few premiers have retired undefeated. Annastacia Palaszczuk is one of a rare breed of people who is in that category. There is a reason for that.

I have known the former premier for more than 30 years. I do not think it was too much of a surprise for people on this side to see her become a senior leader and a minister. However, to go from seven seats to win power, and to win three elections and 48 seats in a career is an extraordinary achievement. In terms of actual outcomes, her leadership during the COVID pandemic saved thousands of lives in this state. I have no doubt whatsoever about that. Cometh the moment, cometh the leader.

I was thinking about how I would describe Annastacia Palaszczuk: dignity, tenacity, compassion, commitment, trailblazer and gets the big calls right. She had the strength to defend the health of Queenslanders when it was under assault from others. I will not get political here, but her strength saved a lot of lives in this state and a lot of people in this state know it. I want to pay tribute to her because a lot of people are getting around now who would not be here without her. There are a lot of issues and achievements that I could go through and they have been well covered by others. Many were in the portfolio of which I was minister. But her singular greatest achievement is that when lives were on the line she was there for people. She should forever be proud of that. We should all be proud of her for that because it took real leadership. She is a real leader.