




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Palaszczuk, Hon. A

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the motion. I first met Anastacia Palaszczuk when I was a candidate in 2014. I must admit at the time I was quite taken aback by the confidence she had that Labor would win government in the next election with the small number of opposition members. To my surprise, and apparently to many others, she had the team to win in 2015. I was very proud to take my place here in this government in 2017. Having come from some extremely male dominated workplaces, I always find it a bit ironic that it was in politics where I could come into a workplace where women were equally represented and, more importantly, they had a position at the table and were in power.

One thing that I think will be her lasting legacy will be her leadership during the pandemic. It is a once-in-a-century event—touch wood—but I am certainly thankful every day that we had someone like Anastacia Palaszczuk in leadership. For those who are able to continue to whinge about the pandemic and the decisions that were made, I can say that that is a direct side effect of surviving a pandemic—the ability to whinge about what happened during it. Go overseas and you will find many people who know loved ones who did not survive the pandemic.

I would like to comment on her leadership as a person and, as the member for Bancroft said, the empathy that she had. I know that when I needed to I could go and have a conversation with her and I could address many things that I would not probably be able to with many other people. I know she had the empathy and she had the ears and she took what I had to say very importantly and she provided a lot of guidance. Thank you, former premier.