



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Muntz, Mr GH



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.50 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Geoffrey Hugh Muntz, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland in the loss they have sustained.

It is over 44 years since Geoff Muntz was elected to the Legislative Assembly. At the time of his election, Joh Bjelke-Petersen was premier, Llew Edwards was deputy premier, and Ed Casey was leader of the opposition.

Geoff Muntz was a member of one of the Gold Coast's most prominent families, having been born in Beenleigh in 1938. In his initial speech in the House on 5 March 1981, Mr Muntz paid tribute to his parents, Councillor Hugh Muntz and Ethel, whom he described as contributing more than 50 years of community and local government service to the Gold Coast.

Geoff Muntz's education was eclectic and reflected his rural interests. He attended Pimpama State School before furthering his education through Gatton College and, by correspondence, through the then Brisbane Technical College, now the Queensland University of Technology.

Ultimately earning a qualification as an Associate of the Australian Institute of Valuers, Geoff Muntz embarked on a varied career throughout Queensland. He worked in the dairying, grazing and grain industries throughout all parts of Queensland and spent time as an inspector in the State Lands Department. In 1964, relying on his extensive knowledge of Queensland's primary industries, he served as a district manager of the State Agricultural Bank from 1964 to 1979, serving in Dalby and Mackay. From 1979 until his election to parliament, he was a partner in a Mackay real estate agency and continued to act as a valuer.

His local involvement propelled him towards state parliament and he was elected as the member for Whitsunday in 1980. At the time he identified the importance to Whitsunday of the sugar, grazing, horticulture and mining industries. While he promoted the area's traditional agricultural and mining industries, he was conscious of the need to develop the growing tourism industry based on the Whitsunday Islands. In his first speech he noted—

The famous Whitsunday islands, a tourist dream, cannot be duplicated in any part of the world ... New developments will add to the lustre and wonder of this tropical paradise set in the centre of one of the natural wonders of the world, the Great Barrier Reef.

At the same time he was conscious of the challenges that this area and the tourism industry were facing. He warned against the dangers to the natural environment, not a universally accepted concern in Queensland of the 1980s. His advocacy and his determination led to his appointment as a minister

from 1983 to 1989 across a range of portfolios covering welfare services, ethnic affairs, youth, corrective services, administrative services, valuation, environment, conservation, tourism and forestry. Geoff Muntz was defeated in 1989.

We welcome to the House today his wife, Jean, son Brett and daughter in-law Lynelle, and extend our condolences to the entire Muntz family.