



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Welford, Hon. RJ



Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Honourable Rodney Jon Welford, 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.

Rodney Jon Welford was born in Brisbane on 30 September 1958. He grew up on Brisbane's north side, where he attended Aspley East State Primary School and St Paul's Anglican Grammar School. Mr Welford was a man of the law, working as a solicitor in private practice and later in the Commonwealth DPP and the Supreme Court of Queensland before becoming a barrister of the High Court of Australia.

In the 1980s Mr Welford became involved with the Australian Labor Party, including as campaign director for the ALP in the electorate of Petrie at the federal election in 1987. It was not long before Mr Welford was preselected by the ALP as its candidate for the state seat of Stafford. At the 1989 state election, Mr Welford successfully won the seat of Stafford, helping Wayne Goss and Labor form government in Queensland for the first time in 32 years. Mr Welford served as a member of this House until 2009. He held the seat of Stafford until it was abolished during a redistribution when he moved to the seat of Everton in 1992.

During his time in the parliament, Mr Welford served in many roles. Central among them was serving Queensland as a cabinet minister for nearly 11 years from 1998 to 2009 under premiers Beattie and Bligh. At various times during this period he held the ministerial portfolios of attorney-general, justice, arts, education, training, environment, heritage and natural resources. He was the shadow minister for environment and heritage from 1996 to 1998 during the term of the Borbidge government, before taking on these portfolios as minister when the Beattie government came to office in June 1998.

After leaving the parliament, he continued to make contributions as the chief executive of the Australian Council of Recycling and as an adjunct professor at Griffith University, serving on the board of its Climate Ready Initiative. I also note that Mr Welford had been a member of the Burleigh Surf Life Saving Club since 1972 and was an accomplished swimmer, surfer and lifesaver. He was a life member of both the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland and the Royal Life Saving Society. He made significant contributions to both societies, serving as president of the Queensland branch and representing his state as a member of the state lifesaving sports team.

The Hon. Rodney Jon Welford passed away on 28 June 2025, aged 66 years. As I said at the time of his passing, Mr Welford entered politics at a time of great change. He left his mark as someone who cared deeply for his community, the legal profession and the environment. Earlier this year he

made a personal donation of \$5 million to Queensland Gives, a significant Queensland contribution to the causes that shaped his life. As was the case with his public life, he did not seek recognition or glory. He did it because he believed in it.

I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr Welford gave to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Welford's family and friends. I welcome to the House today his partner, Gayle, who said to me the thing she misses most is his ability to simplify the complex, and her daughter, Elena, as well as his sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Stephen, who remain very proud of his achievements. Vale, Rod Welford.