



Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

McArdle, Mr MF

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.36 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Mark Francis McArdle, 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.

Mark Francis McArdle was born in Brisbane on 21 December 1956. He went to school on the north side of Brisbane, at St Paschal's in Wavell Heights, St Kevin's School in Geebung and St Columban's Christian College in Albion. After leaving school, Mark entered the Public Service, working in the Public Curator of Queensland. Determined to further his career, Mark went to night school and that led him to study law. After graduating, Mark was appointed as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1984 and as a solicitor of the High Court of Australia in 1989. He became a highly respected figure within the legal fraternity and, I understand, a fierce opponent to be up against in any case.

Having settled on the Sunshine Coast, Mark also became involved with the Liberal Party in the area. He was preselected by the party as its candidate for the state seat of Caloundra following Joan Sheldon's decision to retire. At the state election on 7 February 2004, Mark successfully retained the seat of Caloundra for the Liberal Party. That began a parliamentary career that would last over 16 years until his retirement at the state election of October 2020.

During his time in the parliament, Mark served in many roles. He held several shadow ministries: attorney-general, justice, health and fair trading. He served on numerous parliamentary committees. Within the Liberal Party, Mark served as the party's whip from 2004 to 2005 and, in August 2006, he was elected as the party's deputy leader. In December 2007, Mark was elected as Leader of the Liberal Party, and he went on to play a crucial role in the merger of the Liberal and National parties here in Queensland in 2008. Many observe that the merger would never have happened without Mark's bravery.

At that point, Mark became the first deputy leader of the parliamentary LNP, also serving as deputy leader of the opposition until just after the state election in March 2009. Between 2012 and 2015 Mark was the minister for energy and water supply. During this time, he developed a plan to secure Queensland's water supply and a plan to ensure we had a more resilient and cost-effective energy system. As I said at the time of Mark's passing, I witnessed how much ministerial responsibility meant to him. Mark was always well prepared—always—and he made each decision on the basis of what he felt was right for Queensland, free from political consequences.

Mark bravely fought prostate cancer after receiving the diagnosis in 2013, returning to his ministerial duties after successfully battling the disease. He deserves much credit for publicly talking about this battle and for raising awareness within the community for men to get checked and get the help they need.

Mark McArdle was an unassuming, modest, no-fuss, humble man who had a positive effect on shaping the Sunshine Coast and Queensland as a whole. In his retirement speech in this place, Mark said that he enjoyed every minute of his time here and, to quote him, 'the bloodletting, and the good times as well—because this is a House of robust debate'. Mark Francis McArdle passed away on 14 August 2025 aged 68 years. On behalf of the government, I place on the record our thanks for Mark's service over many years. I extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mark's wife, Judy; his sister, Jennifer; his family; and all his friends. Vale, Mark McArdle.