



Speech By  
**David Lee**


**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

## **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Kingston, Dr JA**

 **Mr LEE** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.45 am): I rise to support the motion of condolence for the former state member for Maryborough, Dr John Alan Kingston. Dr John was well known and respected throughout the Fraser Coast region. Born in 1935 he was an educated man who packed his life to the full. Dr John, as he was affectionately known, was qualified as both a pharmacist and a veterinarian and pursued academic studies in economics, environmental science and regional economic development.

Dr John was a committed conservationist whose interests included studying fish populations, stream health and riparian stability, and minimal input sustainable farming and housing systems and applying them to cane, beef, vegetable and flower producing properties. He also studied economic systems and their socioeconomic impacts and the effects of globalisation. Dr John was a very successful businessman and later a dedicated politician. He took over his father's chemist business in Maryborough which he then grew to be one of the largest chemist businesses in regional Queensland, Kingston's Pharmacies. He then went on to establish Kingston Rural Management and Supplies which pioneered many innovations in the farming industry.

After selling Kingston's Pharmacies, Dr John moved to Laos to use his many and diverse skills to assist that developing country's impoverished people. In Laos he helped establish Vientiane College, the first private school in that country which is still thriving today. He returned to Australia in 1995 with his wife, Joy, and adopted her two Laotian children. They later adopted another young Laotian girl.

In 1997 Dr John was elected to the Maryborough City Council, now the Fraser Coast Regional Council. In 1998 he stood for and won the seat of Maryborough as a member of One Nation and then contested the election in 2001 as an Independent and retained the seat. Dr John was admired by many and had a strong connection with my electorate of Hervey Bay, including Fraser K'gari Island. Dr John was noted for his strong advocacy and support for the Save Fraser Island Dingoes group—a group dedicated to the conservation and protection of the Fraser K'gari Island dingo. Dr John's veterinary experience was invaluable in providing a wealth of information and advice about maintaining the health and wellbeing of the dingoes on the island and then lobbying government accordingly. He was a strong advocate for the adoption of the Bruce Jacobs and Fred Williams management plan that could benefit both dingoes and tourists to Fraser K'gari Island. Farewell, Dr John, and thank you for your service to the Fraser Coast community. Rest in peace.