




Speech By
Linus Power
MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2025

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Pitt, Hon. W, AM

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (10.34 am): I was reflecting on the 1998 by-election, which the member for Bulimba brought up. I, like the member for Bulimba, was lucky enough to be in North Queensland to serve and to learn in that process. My job was to be with Warren every second of the day and to go doorknocking through the southern suburbs of Cairns. Door after door we knocked and, like the member for Bulimba, as I spent more and more time in those southern suburbs, I learnt how deep his connection was to that community.

We have to reflect that that by-election was a pivotal point in our history in Queensland. In the previous election, 11 One Nation members came into this place. Warren had previously won the seat of Mulgrave on primaries but then lost the seat when One Nation was elected on preferences from the LNP. Then there was an extraordinary moment after a resignation when Warren got to run again, to make that argument again. It was the depth of his connection to that community that made that difference.

We all have learnt from others about how to be a representative of people. I reflect on how much I learnt from Warren during that period. One of the most profound things was his depth of connection to the Aboriginal people of North Queensland and especially to the Yarrabah community. He truly loved every single individual there and was proud of the achievements of the young people he had taught or coached. That warmth and true Queensland spirit of wanting Aboriginal people to succeed and wanting the community of Yarrabah to be such a success was something that struck me profoundly.

He was also that pivot point between the old Cairns and the new Cairns. We doorknocked around Babinda when the Babinda mill was still running. It was a time of transition to the modern Cairns based more on new industries.

I also think that we cannot reflect on Warren without mentioning Linda—Linda and Warren, Warren and Linda. They were always together and always cheery. I know that Linda is listening, as well as Curtis and Dionne and the extended family.

I would like to say to Linda and Warren that you made a little history. You changed us at that pivot point when we were making a decision about whether to go back to an older Queensland that did not have the vision, the broadness, the acceptability and the confidence and openness that you had with the people of Queensland. You transitioned us through that community connection on the strength of your community connection to a better Queensland.