




Speech By
Hon. Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. PT WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (9.24 pm): I rise today to deliver my address-in-reply speech for this the 58th Parliament. This is the fourth time I have delivered an address-in-reply speech, but this one is significantly different to any that I have delivered before in a number of ways, not least of all the fact that this time I am delivering it from this side of the chamber, the government benches. On that note, let me begin by congratulating the Premier, the Hon. David Crisafulli. This has been a long and challenging road for the now Premier. He has seen both the highs and the lows the political world can bring: from being elected into government to suffering a devastating electoral defeat, being re-elected, serving four years as opposition leader before leading the LNP to government. This is not an accidental premier. This success is well deserved.

I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Jarrod Bleijie on his ascension to the high office of Deputy Premier. I recall some years ago I attended a preselection forum for the seat of Kawana where a very youthful looking Jarrod Bleijie presented himself for preselection with some flair and not lacking in confidence.

A government member interjected.

Mr WEIR: I am not going to say who I voted for. It was apparent to the room that this was a candidate with some ability, and I think many would agree that has been realised.

I also extend my congratulations to all members who hold the high office of minister in the 58th Parliament. They will be very busy as there is much to do. This is particularly so in the case of my electoral neighbour David Janetzki, who now finds himself the Treasurer and energy minister of this state. I wish him every success in this challenging and demanding role. He is another I have known since his early days of involvement with the party and I am pleased to see his talent and ability being recognised.

I would like to congratulate all members who were successfully re-elected to the 58th Parliament. As members are fully aware, the time of leaving the role of elected MP is not always of the member's choosing. With that in mind, I would like to mention some of my former colleagues who did make the choice to leave at a time of their choosing. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Mark Robinson, the former member for Oodgeroo; Michael Hart, the former member for Burleigh; and my old mate Lachy Millar, the former member for Gregory. I wish all these retiring members all the best for whatever the future holds for them.

I would like to welcome all newly elected members to the Queensland parliament. There is quite a number of new faces and names to get to know, but I think I am across them all now. I would like to thank the Premier and the Deputy Premier for placing their confidence in me to be the Speaker of the 58th Parliament. As I stated on my election to this role, this is a position that was never on my radar, so to be considered, let alone nominated and appointed to the role, is indeed an honour and I thank all members for their support in that nomination. I would like to thank you, member for Scenic Rim, for taking on the role of Deputy Speaker and the work that you are doing to support both myself and the Panel of Temporary Speakers.

There is only one reason I or any other member of this chamber can take on any role in this parliament and that is because the voters of our respective electorates have voted to put their faith in us to be their representative for the upcoming term of parliament. I would like to thank the voters of the electorate of Condamine for re-electing me for a fourth term to be their representative in this parliament. It is, indeed, an honour and one I do not take lightly. This result is only possible because of the work of dedicated party members and supporters, some of whom have been part of this journey for the past 10 years working towards this result. It is always a risk when you start to name names but there are some who must be mentioned.

Let me begin with the south-west region chair Peter Wilson for his support of not only my campaign, but also all other campaigns in the south-west region. The executive of the Condamine SEC, chair Cynthia Hardy, secretary Jo Saal and Treasurer Sonja Wilson, I thank you all for your ongoing support and friendship, not only during the election campaign but also throughout the term. Special thanks must go to Kylie Fuelling for the countless hours that she has contributed to all the campaigns she has been involved in over the years, including all of mine. It would be impossible to tally the phone calls, hours and travel she has personally contributed and did so once again this election. Kylie is one of the true believers of this party who rides every emotion that the political world brings—the successes, the failures, the wins, the losses, the heartbreak and the disappointments—just as much as any elected official. These are the people who drive our party forward. Speaking of which, I must also make special acknowledgement of the loyalty and many years of support of Ian and Margaret Graham. There are no greater servants of our party than these two stalwarts. I cannot thank them enough for their friendship and loyalty.

I am fortunate that I come from a large immediate and extended family. This is especially so when it comes to election time. Once again I was able to call on all my brothers and sisters, my children and also cousins and friends. I cannot thank them enough. If there is one piece of advice I would share with the new members of this House it would be to not lose contact with your family and the friendships that you have made over the years. In this role you will meet many people who are keen to be your friend and you will receive invitations to events, but when times get tough unfortunately many of these new-found friends will not be there. Never forget where you came from or those who have supported you through the tough times over the years, especially your family. Make time for your family. Speaking of which, I would like to thank my children, Amy and Sam, for their support and understanding while I am in this role which takes me away from home on a regular basis. As I stated, I am fortunate to come from a close family. We are not only related but also very close friends. I thank Ann-Maree and Darrol, Kate and Tim, John and Megan, Rob and Janell and Gerrard. All my brothers are very keen fishermen and all own a boat, which is even better.

All of us are only as good as our staff. When I travel around the Condamine electorate, be it to schools, local shows or other events, I am regularly told by the public how helpful and courteous my staff have been in helping with constituents' issues. It is our staff who are the front line. They take the phone calls and greet sometimes very upset constituents, respond to the emails and make sure I get to where I should be on time and at the right address—which does not always happen when it is left to me. Many thanks to Kylie, Colleen, Ally and Nadine for all that you do, not only for myself but for all the members of the public that you help every day. Also thank you to Sandy Cowan who recently retired from the office after a number of years. All the best to yourself and Bill and don't spoil the grandkids too much.

Thank you to everyone who helps and supports me here in my role as Speaker: Clerk Neil Laurie, Deputy Clerk Michael Ries and all the staff in the parliament. You are a wonderful help not only to myself but also to the parliament. Thank you to Coral and Jackie in the Speaker's office for making me look organised. I look forward to being able to deliver for the residents in Condamine during this term. We are in government at last. Let us deliver for the regions of this state.